Poster supplement
to MCFC
Official Programme
v Bolton Wanderers
3rd March 2012

city

James Milner

Junior Blues and *live4city* – Members Update

The Club's current junior membership schemes – Junior Blues and *live4city* – have been in place for a number of years, attracting thousands of our young fans to become part of the City family.

Although both schemes have proved extremely popular, we are keen to ensure that our junior/teenage membership offering is continually improved to provide the best for our younger supporters.

The club is currently developing a new, innovative junior membership scheme which will be launched during the 2011/12 season. As a result, **both the Junior Blues and *live4city* schemes are now closed.**

Junior supporters will retain their current supporter numbers but their cards will no longer allow access to the Etihad Stadium.

The club recognises that prior to the launch of the new scheme, alternative arrangements, allowing junior members the opportunity to attend games, need to be made.

Therefore, the following match ticket option will be available until further notice:

- Adults who have purchased Superbia, Platinum or Gold Membership or Blue Membership with "Home Match Ticket Priority", will have the opportunity to purchase up to **two additional Under-16 paper tickets** (with tickets available from just £5 in the Family Stand) during the exclusive sales window prior to tickets going on general sale. **Supporters are advised that this option is only available for telephone and "in person" sales and is not currently available online.**

Further information on the new junior membership scheme will be communicated to all supporters in the coming months but, in the meantime, we have transferred all mascot/Player Escort/free ticket competitions to **www.mcfc.co.uk**

These competitions are open to ALL junior City supporters who are *aged from five to 12 and are junior Seasoncard holders or in possession of a current supporter number.

*Unless the away club has a different age policy.

Junior Gallery


01


02


03


04


05


06

01 Belated birthday wishes to 13-year-old **James Jackson** from Tunbridge Wells.

02 Finn Chadwick will be nine years old on Wednesday 7th March. A Seasoncard holder in the Family Stand, he was a Player Escort at the FA Cup final and is pictured on the pitch with Gareth Barry before kick-off.

03 Happy seventh birthday to **Samuel Aston**, who is pictured here with brother James. Samuel plays for Ramsbottom United Juniors.

04 Happy birthday to **Bradley Moloney** who was nine on Monday. He is a season ticket holder in the Family Stand with his dad. "All our love – from mum, dad and sister Hannah xxx."

05 Happy 11th birthday for yesterday to **Matthew Holt**, who is pictured here with Sergio Aguero. "Love and kisses from mum, dad and sister Olivia."

06 "Happy eighth birthday **Sophie Davies**. We love you all the way to the Blue Moon and back! All our love, mum and dad."

Accompany your favourite City players onto the pitch...

With home and away league games rapidly running out this season we are offering you yet more chances to fulfil your dreams...

Player Escort v Chelsea

★ David Silva... Mario Balotelli... Sergio Aguero? Who to accompany onto the pitch is the only decision the lucky winner of this competition will have to make! But before it comes to that, you have to correctly answer the following question!

What do Nicolas Anelka, Shaun Wright-Phillips, Wayne Bridge and Daniel Sturridge have in common?

Closing date – Friday 9th March

Win tickets to City v Chelsea

★ If you're not lucky enough to be selected as Player Escort for this game, the next best thing is to be part of the crowd. We have FIVE PAIRS of Family Stand tickets on hold (one adult, one junior) so if you're feeling lucky and can answer the following question it could be you cheering City on to yet another home victory.

Who scored City's only goal when the two teams met at Stamford Bridge on 12th December 2011?

Closing date – Monday 12th March

Player Escort v Sunderland

★ The Black Cats visit the Etihad Stadium on 31st March and once again we are offering you the chance to accompany your favourite player onto the pitch. Simply answer correctly the following question:

On what date did ex-City defender Nedum Onuoha make his debut on loan at for Sunderland?

Closing date – Friday 23rd March

Win tickets to City v Sunderland

★ Yet again we have five pairs of Family Stand tickets (one adult, one junior) to give away to the lucky winners who can answer the following question correctly...

What is the name of Sunderland's ground?

Closing date – Friday 23rd March

REMEMBER – YOU'VE GOT TO BE IN IT TO WIN IT!

Away Mascot v Stoke

★ To become the official MCFC mascot at the Britannia Stadium on 24th March all you need to do is cast your mind back to that wonderful moment last May when City lifted the FA Cup at Wembley and tell us...

What was the official attendance?

Closing date – Monday 12th March

Email your entries to **liz.douglas@mcfc.co.uk** to arrive no later than the dates specified for each competition. The winners will be selected at random from all correct answers and notified by telephone. All entries must include your name, age, supporter number and a daytime contact number.

These competitions are open to ALL junior City supporters who are aged 5-12* and are junior Seasoncard holders or in possession of a current supporter number.

Away mascots only: MCFC provide the relevant complementary kit for all away mascots but match tickets** MUST be bought from the MCFC Box Office.

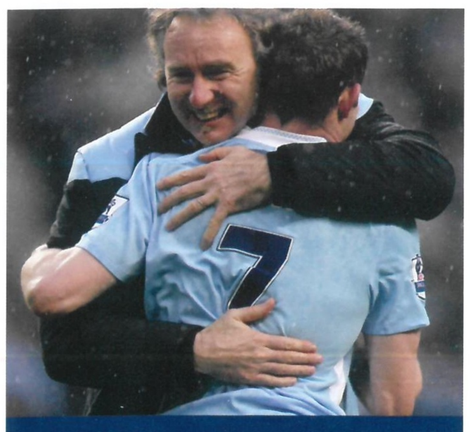
*Unless the away club has a different age policy.
**We automatically have four on hold.

Group Bookings

A big City welcome today to:

Lime House School from Carlisle
QEH School from Bristol
Maesybryn FC from Bangor
NDSL Academy Keepers from Dublin
Rangers 14s AFC from Dublin
Rangers 13s AFC from Dublin
Stoneyholme Community Primary School from Burnley – a big hello from all the children to their head teacher, Lisa Davison who is a Seasoncard holder and in the crowd with her family!
Queen Elizabeth II High School Year 7 rugby team from the Isle of Man
Uddingston Grammar School from Glasgow
Trinity High School from Glasgow

James Milner



Number

■ James took over the number 7 shirt when he moved to City having worn 11 at Aston Villa, 16 at Newcastle and 38 at Leeds. He made his England debut in the number 13 shirt and wore 16 during the 2010 World Cup finals.

Debuts

■ James made his Leeds debut as an 84th minute substitute against West Ham in November 2002 at the age of 16 years and 309 days.

■ His first competitive game for Newcastle was against Middlesbrough in the Premier League on 18th August 2004 and for Villa versus West Ham on 12th September 2005.

■ His first City appearance came in a 3-0 home win over Liverpool on 23rd August 2010.

Teams

■ James began his career with the Leeds United Academy and broke into the first team at the age of 16. He played 48 league and six cup games for Leeds and also appeared six times out on loan at Swindon in 2003-04. In July 2004 he left his hometown club for Newcastle and played 139 times for them in just over four years – 94 of them in the league. During 2005-06 he was loaned out to Aston Villa, the club he was eventually to leave Tyneside for in August 2008. He made exactly 100 Premier League appearances for Villa, plus another 26 in cup competitions, before joining City in August 2010. He played his 300th league game in City's win at Villa Park three weeks ago, with 294 of them being in the Premier League.



International

■ James went into this week's game with Holland on 23 caps having made his first full international appearance against the Dutch in August 2009.

■ He won a record 46 caps at Under-21 level between 2004 and the Euro 2009 final against Germany in Sweden. He also has England caps at Under-20 level (6), for the Under-19s (1), Under-17s (11) and Under-16s (6).

Birthday

■ James was born in Leeds on Saturday 4th January 1986. That day City won 3-1 at Walsall in the Third Round of the FA Cup and Leeds were knocked out at Peterborough!

Did You Know?

■ When James scored his first Leeds goal he was just 16 years and 309 days old and, at that time, was the second youngest player ever to play in the Premier League.



Goals

■ James scored his first Leeds goal at Sunderland in his fifth senior game on Boxing Day 2002 aged 16 years and 356 days. His second was two days later in a home win over Chelsea. Both qualified as Premier League "youngest goalscorer" records.

■ He scored five in total for Leeds (all league), two for Swindon (both league), 12 for Newcastle (six league) and 22 for Villa (12 league).

■ His first City goal came in the FA Cup Third Round tie at Leicester last season. This season has seen his first Premier League goals for Blues. He has been on target three times so far in the current campaign – against Everton, Aston Villa and Liverpool (a penalty) – all at home.

Honours

FA Cup winner

League Cup runner-up

UEFA European Under-21 Championship runner-up

PFA Young Player of the Year 2009-10

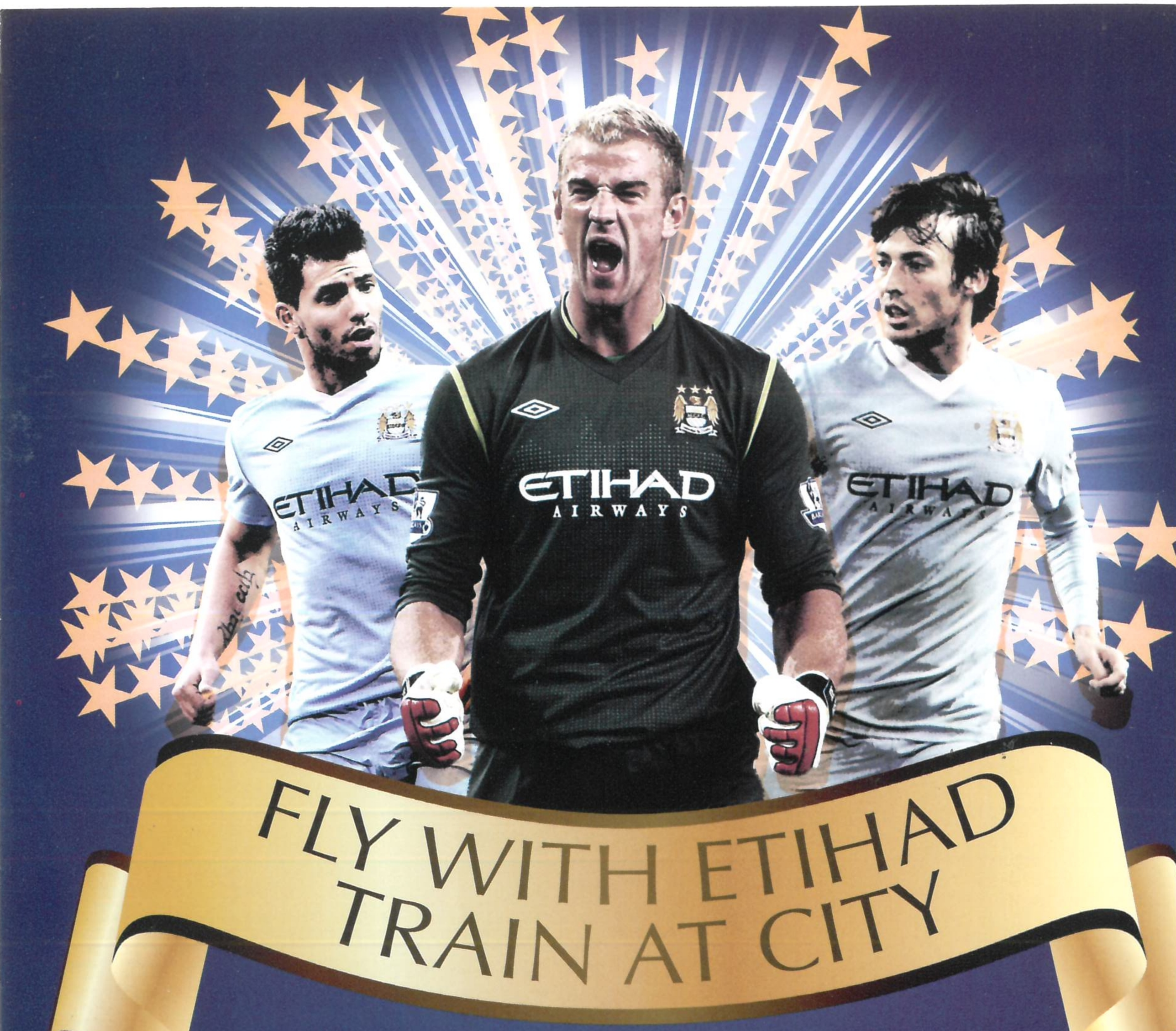


James Milner

7




BARCLAYS
PREMIER LEAGUE
#TOGETHER
M.C.F.C.
Superbia In Proelio
WE'RE NOT REALLY HERE
ETIHAD
AIRWAYS
etisalat
aabar
Thomas Cook
SPORT
JAGUAR
EA SPORTS
MANSION.com
AMSTEL
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Fly Etihad Airways to win an exclusive training session for you and a friend at Manchester City.

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Simply book a flight with Etihad before 31 March 2012 and email your booking confirmation to manchestercity@etihad.ae. You'll then be automatically entered into the draw, and could be training with City before you know it. The winners will be announced in April.

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*2009, 2010 & 2011 World Travel Awards

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Coaches Fausto Salsano, David Platt, Attilio Lombardo **Fitness Coach** Ivan Carminati
Goalkeeping Coach Massimo Battara **Technical Director** Mike Rigg **Academy Manager** Mark Allen

Honours

Premier League / Football League

'Old' Division One Champions: 1936-37, 1967-68.
Runners-up: 1903-04, 1920-21, 1976-77.

'New' First Division / 'Old' Second Division Champions: 1898-99, 1902-03, 1909-10, 1927-28, 1946-47, 1965-66, 2001-02.
Runners-up: 1895-96, 1950-51, 1988-89, 1999-2000.

'New' Division Two Play-Off Winners: 1998-99.

FA Cup Winners: 1904, 1934, 1956, 1969, 2011.
Runners up: 1926, 1933, 1955, 1981.

Football League Cup Winners: 1970, 1976.
Runners up: 1974.

European Cup-Winners' Cup Winners: 1970.

FA Charity Shield Winners: 1937, 1968, 1972.

Full Members' Cup Runners Up: 1985-86.

FA Youth Cup Winners: 1986, 2008.

Reserve League Champions: 1977-78, 1986-87, 1999-2000.

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Official Programme

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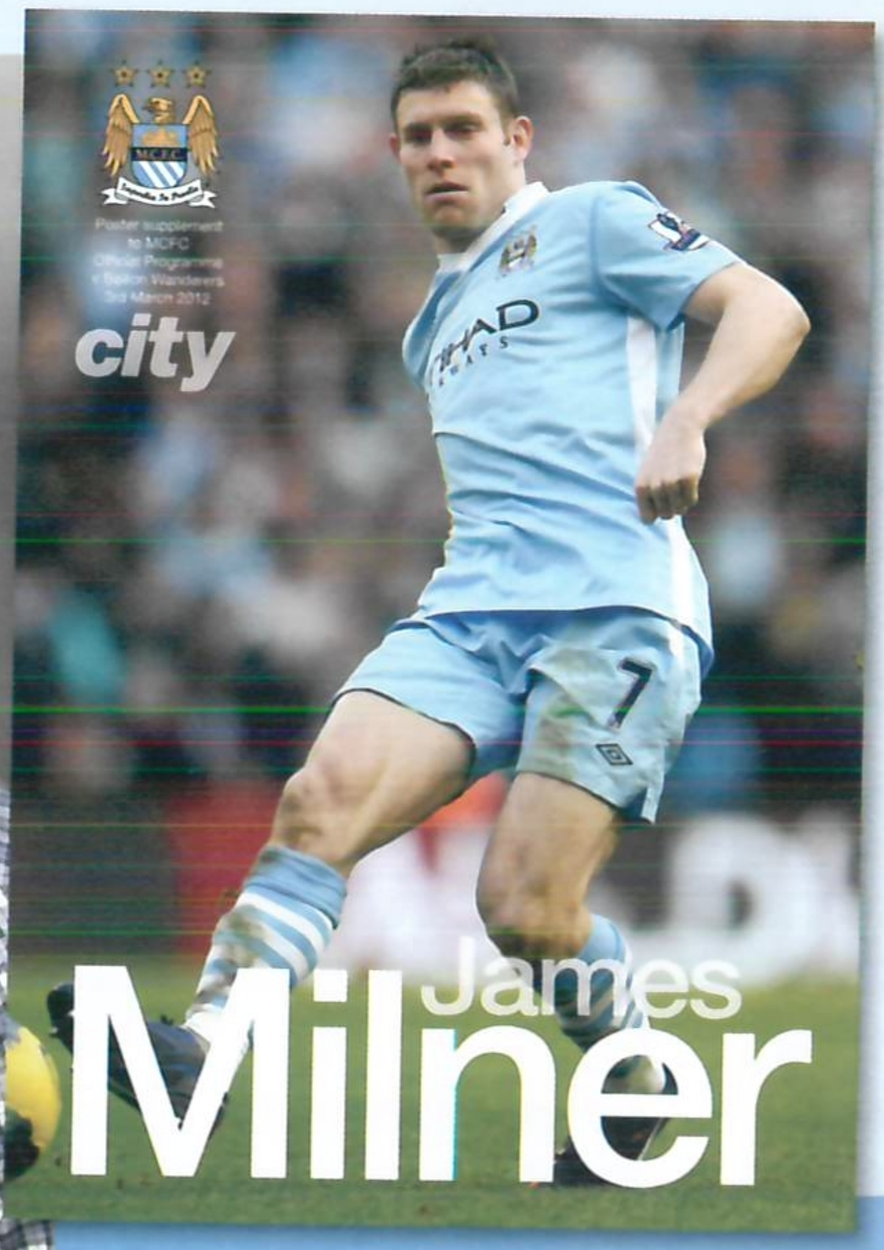
Production Ignition Publications

Production Editor Neil Jeffries

Print Buxton Press

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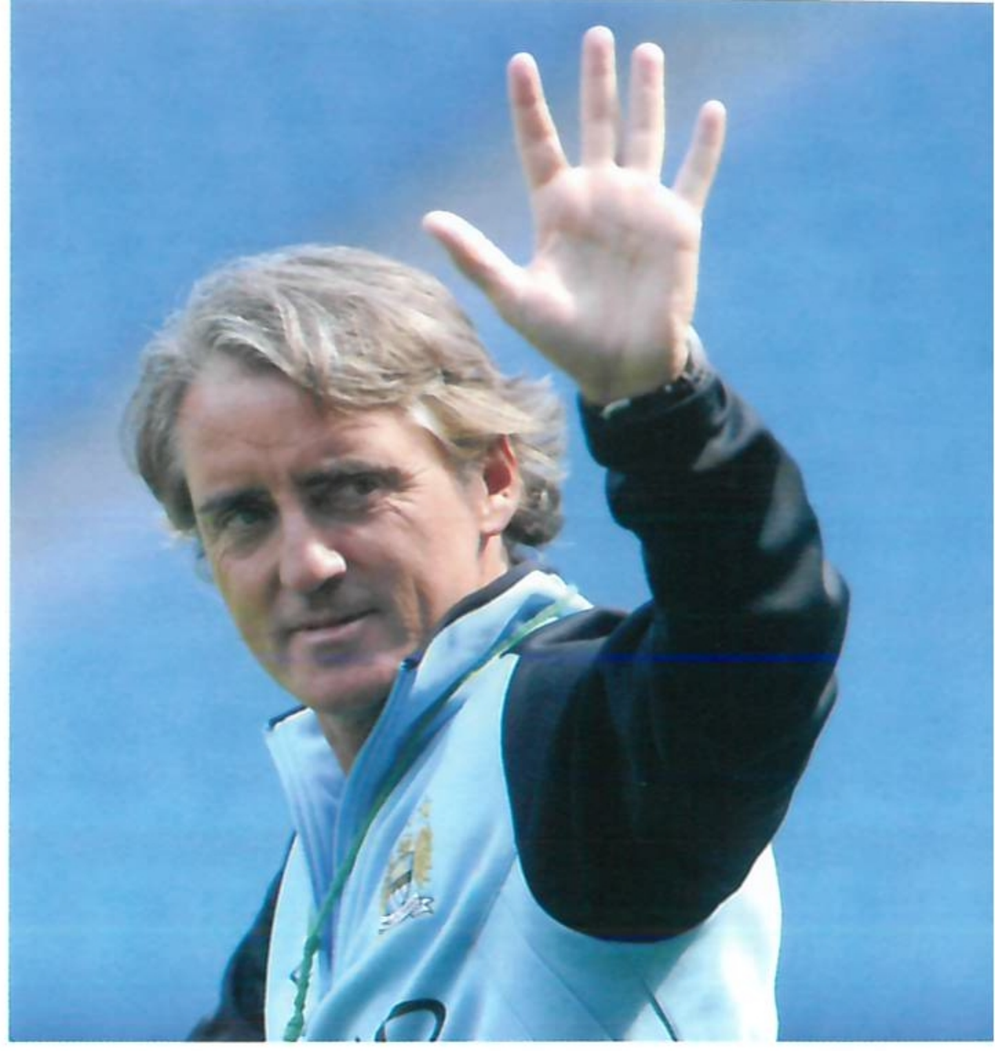


FANTASTIC MASCOT PRIZES AND TICKETS TO BE WON in the junior poster supplement

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Joleon Lescott comes away with the ball after getting the better of his former Everton team-mate Yakubu in last week's win over Blackburn.

Roberto Mancini



> When a football club is successful it is not just the players that make it so. There are a lot of people all with the same desire and drive to succeed including the fans

Like all the top teams across Europe we have had a disrupted week of preparation for today's game.

Thursday was the first time we had got together as a group since the 3-0 win over Blackburn last Saturday evening.

International matches at this stage of the season are not great for clubs but there are several such breaks during the season so we have become used to preparing for games in these circumstances. Hopefully there will not be any signs of tiredness in the players after the travelling. Thankfully, except for Yaya and Kolo Toure, there were no really long-haul trips involved.

I was delighted with the way we won the game against Rovers which kept us at the top of the Barclays Premier League going into March. We kept possession of the ball very well, we were patient, we took three of our chances when they came and we kept a clean sheet. A manager should always be happy if all these things happen in one game!

All the strikers – Mario Balotelli, Sergio Aguero and Edin Dzeko – scored and that is important for all of them and the group. To have all your top scorers fit and confident in front of goal is vital as we enter the last 12 games of the season.

I am told that we are on the verge of breaking all kinds of records for City in the Premier League but the one that really matters is writing the club's name in the history books as champions, something that hasn't happened for more than 40 years.

We are in a good position but there is still more than 30 per cent of the season left to play and that is a lot of points, so no one is taking anything at all for granted.

It is vital that we are all together in this aim to win the Premier League and to win the Europa League in which we play Sporting Lisbon this week.

When a football club is successful it is not just the players that make it so. There are a lot of people all with the same desire and drive to succeed including the fans and we at City are all together in this fantastic season and fight to win the title. I thank the supporters again for their help in making every home game such a big occasion and for lifting the players. It is appreciated.

A lot has been said and written about the fact that we have won every home game this season in the Premier League. It is something about which we and the fans can be proud but it is impossible to now be complacent.

I have said it before but every game is like a Champions League final and for this reason we need good concentration, good mentality and loud support in every game. We must approach every opponent just the same. In England every team in the Premier League is dangerous and capable of causing the teams at the top big problems.

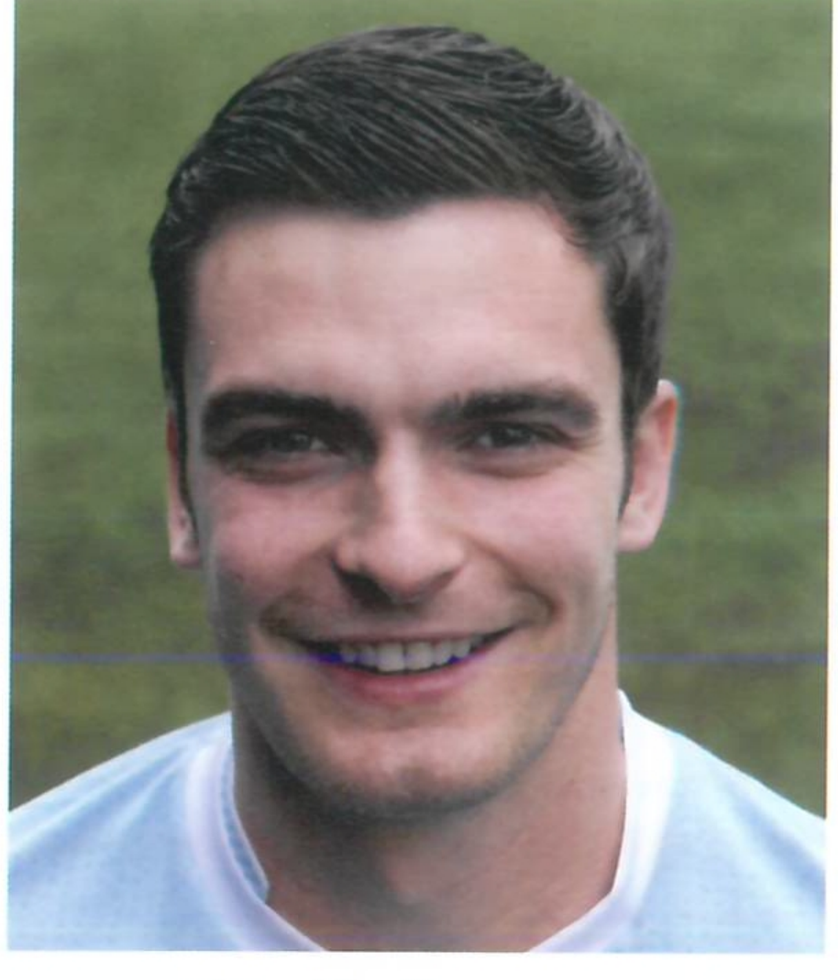
When you play against a squad playing against relegation, like last week and today against Bolton Wanderers, it can be more difficult. They are fighting hard, too. Every team in the Premier League seems to have something to play for whether it is the title, qualification for the Champions League, qualification for the Europa League or avoiding relegation.

Bolton has been in the Premier League for a lot of years now and they want to stay here so we must expect a big challenge like the one we had at the Reebok Stadium earlier in the season when we won 3-2.

They have progressed recently to the quarter-finals of the FA Cup which will give them some confidence and they also won at Everton which is not an easy place to win three points. So we expect a tough test today.

I welcome Owen Coyle, his staff and everyone from Bolton. Enjoy the game.

Johnson passes credit to Kolarov



Adam Johnson is hitting peak form at exactly the right stage of the season. The England winger played well against the Netherlands, proved a thorn in Blackburn's side last Saturday, and is hoping to continue his current run in the City side in the coming weeks.

"I was obviously happy to get another start; it was my third in a row in the Premier League," he said. "I was pleased with how I played and wish I could've stayed on for the entire game, I think every player is like that, though."

City exerted the pressure straight from the kick-off, with the Blues' domination of the ball resulting in a stunning 83 per cent possession at one stage. Although that figure dropped to 78 per cent by the final whistle, it was an emphatic victory in the stats and scoreline.

"I think once we scored that first goal they never really looked like scoring against us," added Johnson. "At times we had so much possession, we just passed it and passed it and passed it. They're fighting for their lives and coming to us was obviously difficult for them.

"If they hung on for as long as they could and maybe just nicked a point I think they would've been delighted with that. We probably should have scored more than three, but it's another three points and another game down. We were patient, we created the chances and it was just a case of taking one."

Aleksandar Kolarov was voted the star man by the club and Johnson was quick to heap praise onto the Serbian full-back.

"I thought he was outstanding today and should have won the Sky Sports vote, too," he said. "He's almost like another forward for us at times, that's priceless to have in the team. That second cross was as good as you will see all season."

With the Blues' home league record currently reading 13 games played and won plus 40 goals scored, a trip to the Etihad is a daunting prospect for any visiting team.

"When you play at home there is that little bit extra," said the Blues' number 11. "You have a lot more of the ball and we enjoy that, especially on a big pitch like ours. Sometimes when you go away to teams where the pitches aren't so good; they're narrow and make it difficult for teams like us to play. At home we have everything in our favour, and obviously we have all the fans behind us."



Kolarov thinks it's down to two...

Aleks Kolarov believes Tottenham's 5-2 defeat at Arsenal means it will be hard for the North Londoners to now challenge for the Premier League title.

With City and United starting to pull clear of the Lilywhites, the Blues' in-form Serbian full-back said: "I think we are in a two-way battle with United at the top of the Premier League and I think it will be like that until the very end.

"Of course, that raises the tension so every game in every round our two clubs play will be on a high note. We are playing well and, have a two-point advantage after the win over Blackburn and United are coming to our ground three matches before the end of the season.

"Maybe that game will be the decisive one, but I think we are the better team and must show that on the pitch. At the beginning of this campaign we played in four competitions, now we play in two. We want to win a trophy in both as that is our target. We are on a good run, so we will see what we can do."

Kompany: Rovers taught City a lesson

Vincent Kompany says the stubbornness of Blackburn Rovers last weekend proved the Blues can dismiss any thoughts of "banker" results in the Premier League – and he is expecting Bolton to be equally tough this afternoon.

"There is no such thing as an easy game for us – to win the league we will have to do the same week in week out," said the Blues' inspirational skipper.

"People say being leaders you have the pressure from those behind but I think it is the opposite and we are putting pressure onto those behind us."

"Against Blackburn, we did the right thing, we played in the right manner and the passion was there. We concentrated as well – I think it was the right result."

Milner would love to captain England

James Milner has thrown his hat into the ring for the England captain vacancy, should the opportunity arise.

Scott Parker took the honour for the midweek friendly against the Netherlands, but Milner has added a timely reminder that he might just fit the bill to lead his country at Euro 2012.

"I don't see why not," he said. "I have played enough games in the Premier League and played for nearly 10 years now as a professional.

"People say I'm the ideal age to be a captain, between the younger players and the more experienced ones. I can't control that, but if asked to do the job I will jump at the chance.

"As a kid growing up, you want to play for your country and dream of one day captaining your country. If I am asked to do that, I would be very proud and do it to the best of my ability on and off the field.

"As a footballer, I always try to do everything I can to maximise the best out of my abilities. It would be the same if you were asked to be captain.

"You'd do everything you can to help yourself and the team. Nothing changes there, really. Your responsibilities and media demands go up and people might look on you slightly differently.

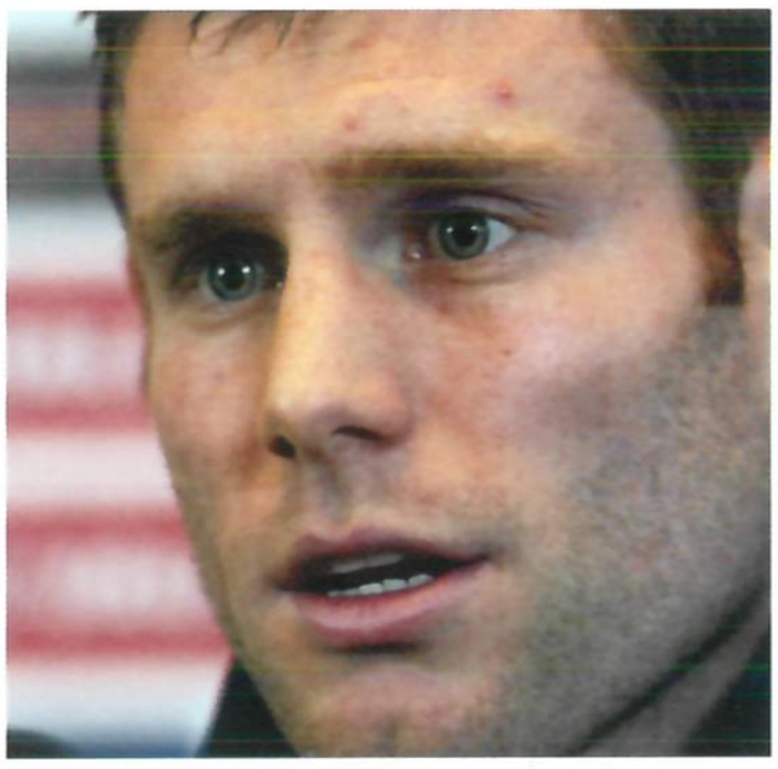
"But as a player you still go out there to play as well as you can for England. The team comes first as always, whether you've got an armband on or not.

"I've been very blessed to play for some big teams and alongside some very big players, none bigger than the dressing room I'm in now at City. If you look at the people in that dressing room, it's full of world-class players and the pressure is on every week to perform, to go out and win trophies.

"Hopefully you can do that, but all the time you're growing as a person and as a player as much as you can.

"I was pretty lucky to start my career at 16, play for a number of years and maybe get a head-start. All the time you're trying to improve as a player but also as a person on and off the field.

"As you get older, you are not just concentrating on yourself but thinking of how you can help younger players coming through and thinking what you can do for the team to help the performance."



Dzeko welcomes back Tevez

Edin Dzeko believes the return of Carlos Tevez will only add more quality to the Blues' title challenge.

The Bosnian striker, on 18 goals for the season, says Tevez has a part to play in City's run-in.

"He can bring quality to the team," he said. "We are all one team trying to play together and it's good that we scored three against Blackburn because in the end goal difference could be the key."

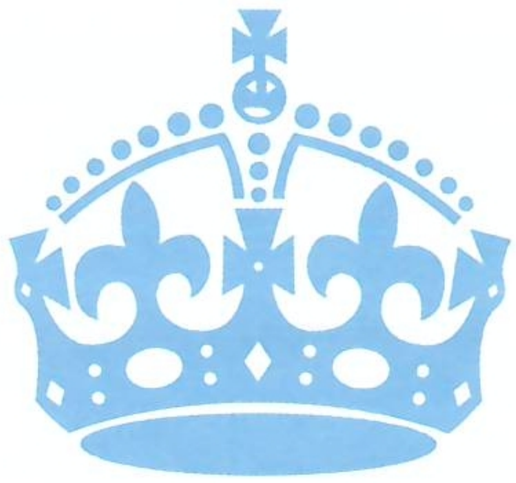
Although currently second in City's goalscoring chart, Dzeko admitted he is champing at the bit to start every game, but accepts that cannot happen.

"Of course you want to start, especially when you have scored so many goals," he said. "Okay, sometimes you can play badly, but in the end it's the decision of the manager and I respect that.

"We won 3-0 and my goals are talking for me, so I'm happy. I think we have quality throughout our team.

"When you see the players like Sergio Aguero, David Silva and Yaya Toure and the others, you think, 'Wow, we have to win this (title)' and with these players we can do it, because they are amazing.

"There are still 12 games to go and we have to try to win every one – if we do that, we would definitely win the Premier League. It won't be easy because United are just behind us, but we will see."



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UMBRO GEOMETRA

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Platt pleased all gameplans work for City!

It is more than a calendar year since the Blues last dropped points at home, with the Etihad Stadium becoming the bedrock of the club's title challenge. Stifling tactics have become more and more prominent in opposition efforts to curb the goalscoring ability of Sergio Aguero and co, something first-team coach David Platt is acutely aware of.

"I think it's very difficult for teams because they know that if they open up against us then we're likely to cut through them," he said.

"We've got a very strong defence, we know we can defend well and make it difficult for them to score. I think the game-plan that Blackburn operated is more or less the same game-plan that most teams implement when they come here because they know we've got the ability to go and score goals.

"They try to stay in the game for as long as they possibly can, keep it nice and tight and hopefully pinch something. I thought (against Rovers) we were exceptionally well-disciplined, we created chances but also at the back we restricted them to very few opportunities.

Aleksandar Kolarov played a key part in breaking down a stubborn Blackburn side, gaining two assists during his forays down the left flank.

"Aleks has great energy getting up and down that left-hand side," continued Platt. "I thought the two balls he put in for the goals were exceptional. The one for Edin, to get that kind of power and trajectory on it from the angle he was at is phenomenal. Even the first one is a good ball in to Mario; to be able to whip it in there makes it easy for the striker. We know he's got that capability.

"As for the final dozen games, I don't think it's a case of piling on the pressure on our clubs; it's just a case of concentrating on our own games, making sure we win football matches. If we do win football matches then it asks questions of the others. That's what we've got to do."

Silva eyes title race 'decider'

Spanish maestro David Silva believes that all the pieces are in place for a scintillating finale at the Premier League's summit.

The City midfielder, speaking in his role as tourism ambassador at a promotional press call for his native Gran Canaria, eyed April's Manchester derby clash against United as being pivotal in deciding the fate of the league title come May.

"If we get to that match on the same number of points then it could be decisive, but we have to get there first, we have to win every match.

"To win the Premier League would be an incredible thing to achieve with Manchester City, and for the people of Manchester after so many years. I also imagine the people of Gran Canaria will feel pride at having a player from their island win the Premier League for the first time, too!"

No stranger to the relief felt following a barren spell, David explained how helping the Blues' to their first domestic title since 1968 would hold as much significance to him as assisting Spain to their first World Cup triumph two years ago.

"Having seen the City supporters waiting so long to win the league, it would be just as important as winning the World Cup.

"Our World Cup win came after the European Championship victory so people were already happy. People forget the bad things in life when celebrating a win like that."



Newcastle re-arranged

Please note that our Barclays Premier League fixture away to Newcastle United has been put back 23 hours to clear the Saturday for the FA Cup final.

Newcastle versus City will now be played on Sunday 6th May, kick-off 2pm.

Let the wind take you places
your imagination has not yet been.



Corniche – Dhow Sailing



Where the shore ends, adventure begins.
Crystal shimmering waters whisper
a language only the heart can interpret.
A secret. A breeze. Set adrift on endless azure dreams.
A liquid haven, where stories of the past
write the verses to the future.
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Abu Dhabi

Glow World returns to the Etihad

Thursday 22nd March – Sunday 1st April

Fantastic by day, amazing at night… That's Glow World, and it's returning to the Etihad Stadium, Manchester! This event promises breathtaking, awe-inspiring, mind-boggling, illuminating displays that will dazzle and amaze you, plus live interactive entertainment and a fantastic selection of theme park rides and attractions, all at low prices with extra discounts available to keep it affordable for all the family!

Glow World takes place at the Etihad Stadium (entrance on Alan Turing Way, opposite Asda), from Thursday 22nd March until Sunday 1st April. Opening times are Monday to Friday 5pm–9.30pm and Saturdays/Sundays from 12noon–9.30pm.*

Entrance is just £2 and rides are from only £1! Buy 10 ride tokens for £10 and get two extra tokens free!

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You wouldn't want to GLOW anywhere else!

* Open 6pm–9.30pm on Saturday 31st March. Closed on Europa League match days (see MCFC website for ongoing Europa League home fixtures).





MCFC win disabled access award

Manchester City Football Club is proud to be one of the first clubs in the country to receive the Level Playing Field Award.

The club will be presented with the "First Stage Certificate" at the game today following a successful Access Audit Inspection which looked into the suitability of the stadium for disabled supporters, visitors and staff.

The audit incorporates the DDA/Disability Equality Act, the Football Licensing's Authority's Accessible Stadia Guide and the National Association of Disabled Supporters' accessibility checklists.

The audit visit, which incorporates guidelines and standards as outlined in the National Accessible Standards and British Standards, gives recommendations and best practice guidelines for any improvements.

The audit is accepted as part of the evidence required within the Kick it Out equality standards.

Senior members of staff, security staff and the Manchester City DLO also attended a training seminar, which was delivered by Mike Elkerton who conducted the audit of the stadium and is a member of the National Register of Access Consultants and the chairman of the NW Regional Access Association of Great Britain.

Be the difference between life and death

St John Ambulance teaches people first aid so that they can be the difference between a life lost and a life saved.

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Legends gather for CITC!

Have you ever wanted to meet your favourite City Star from yesteryear?

On Saturday 28th April, City in the Community (CITC) will be staging the inaugural City Legends dinner in partnership with the Manchester City Supporters Association (MCSA).

The event will celebrate the great Manchester derby games over the years. The City Legends event will also be used as a fundraiser for the newly inaugurated Connell Awards, to recognise outstanding local community sports projects that seek to increase participation in East Manchester.

Present on the night will be a number of VIPs and a host of former Manchester City greats. The former players will represent teams from the 1960s through to players who played in the famous 5-1 victory against Manchester United at Maine Road. CITC has always worked closely with the supporters, and we feel this joint venture underlines the on-going relationship with MCSA.

During the evening you will have a unique opportunity to ask questions direct to players, as well as obtaining autographs and photographs with the City Legend of your choice. The event will be held at the Etihad Stadium. A hot topic will surely be the forthcoming fixture against Manchester United, which could potentially be the season clincher! The compere for the evening will be Gary Owen, the former Manchester City favourite.

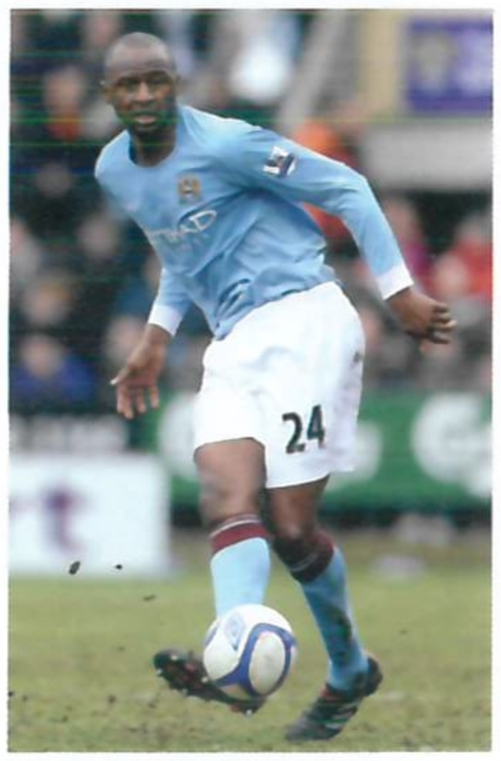
Places for the event will be very limited, and we have a tailored price range to meet all needs. All funds raised on the night will go to support the Connell Awards, to support youth sport in the East Manchester area.

Should you require any further information about the event or you would like to book a place, please contact Alex Williams on 0161 438 7908.









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When you're a Blue, there's never a dull moment.

We've been glorious, we've been calamitous. We've sung, we've sobbed. We've broken records, we've broken hearts. We've been sky-high, we've been rock-bottom. But there's one thing that has always remained true, we have always done it together.

From the tea lady to the Manager or the fan in the stands to the Captain in the changing room, we're all on the same amazing journey, and what a ride it has been so far.

We've not only played some of the best football to grace MII, but most of Europe too. The atmosphere around the Club and especially on match-days has been absolutely electric and it's all down to you, the fans. Never ever underestimate the impact you have on a match and the effect it has on the players.

We're entering the final part of the season and you don't need us to tell you how much there is to play for. So let's play for it together, now more than ever.

#TOGETHER is about your stories, pictures and experiences of what it means to be a City fan. They are the fabric of this great Club and make us who we are.

Watch out between now, the end of the season and beyond for updates on how you can be part of #TOGETHER.

Together we are stronger, Together we sing louder, but above all, Together we are City!

#TOGETHER
OR WWW.MCFC.CO.UK/TOGETHER


#TOGETHER

Interview
by Peter Ferguson

Patrick Vieira



Patrick Vieira is not the same man these days. True, he still has that indefinable aura and heads turn when he walks into the room. And he remains an iconic figure, one of the best midfielders to have plied his trade in the Premier League over the past 20 years. But the tall, powerful Frenchman is now often to be found in a suit and tie rather than the sweat-stained kit that testifies to a 90-minute duel in the English rain or a gruelling training session at Carrington.

No, Patrick Vieira is no longer the perfect model for a modern-day midfielder, equipped to go toe-to-toe with the most challenging opponent (Hi, Roy!), to cruise out of danger with the ball at his feet, to stride back into the maelstrom and emerge victorious to set up another attack, to cajole and inspire his team-mates to give even more in those draining final minutes.

> "I believe we have the team to win the league. Every time I see the players, they believe they can do it"

But having hung up his boots last summer, he *does* remain an inspiration, particularly to the young players at the club, in his new role as Football Development Executive. His presence is also a constant reminder to his senior team-mates from last season's glorious FA Cup adventure of just what can be achieved in the game when attitude and application are welded to the undoubted talent that flows through the ranks of Roberto Mancini's hand-picked first-team squad.

Having won the World Cup and a European Championship with France, as well as a glittering cluster of domestic honours from his years as Arsenal's skipper and enforcer under the wing of his mentor Arsène Wenger, Vieira really has been there and worn out the T-shirt. Yet he continues to tackle fresh fields with the same gusto that once powered the Gunners' midfield and overpowered many a rival – the latest being a sortie into Ireland to lend his high-profile presence to City in the Community's Soccer Schools initiative in the Emerald Isle. And yes, it probably did no harm to be called Patrick either.

"When you see the smiles of the kids, that is priceless," he says, "and it is really important for us as a club to be close to the community. As a footballer you always feel like you are privileged, and to spend a few hours and make them smile, make the parents smile, really puts things in their place. I met some lovely, dedicated people... the job they are doing is unbelievable."

His continued association with Manchester City, having been drafted in from *Serie A* giants Juventus for the twilight of his splendid career by Roberto Mancini, has been widely remarked upon throughout football. To have the familiar, commanding figure of Patrick Vieira around the place... well, winners breed winners, lead to a winning mentality, inspire those that follow to aspire. Some expected him to return to his spiritual home to fulfil such a role, and it would seem from afar that their north London derby exploits notwithstanding, Arsenal could do with a little extra inspiration just lately.

Inspiration aplenty came from the Vieira presence during last season's journey to the Blues' first FA Cup win in 42 years, and his contribution went much further than the replay goal he scored to put the skids under Leicester's challenge in the Third Round, or the brace of set-piece headers he produced to send Notts County on their way to a 5-0 defeat in the Fourth. He started every game until the semi-final derby, when he came off the bench late on to help close out the victory, and while

his name was missing from the team-sheet in the final against Stoke, there was no prouder squad member than Patrick Vieira as he celebrated his fifth FA Cup medal.

Now his role has changed, he can indulge himself in that favourite Sunday treat of his, the no-nonsense full-English breakfast, a little more often than he used to. But his appetite for winning has not changed, nor his astute understanding of the game and what is required to win a Premier League title or three. A handful of those, including two won in the same season as the FA Cup, make him well qualified to analyse this season's neck-and-neck race with the opponents who were so often his closest rivals during the halcyon days at Highbury.

As a shrewd judge of football thoroughbreds, Vieira has no doubt that City are poised to maintain their lead on the final straight of the title race and take full advantage of their edge over the defending champions in the quality stakes, as he sees it.

"What is important, I think, is that as a team, we are better than United," he says, knowing full well the loaded significance of that statement.

"It's in our hands to win the title. We are a better side than United. When you look at our team and how we have played since the start of the season, and you look at how United have played since the start of the season, the fact is that we are better than them.

"But they know how to win. Sir Alex Ferguson knows the league better than anybody else, they win titles year after year. They know what to do to win the league. As a club, it's quite new for us to be in that situation. But we have players with experience, we have a manager with the experience, we have the desire to do it, and the focus is there.

"At Arsenal we believed in ourselves. Our self-belief was really high. Maybe some people will say that was arrogance, but it was just self-belief. We knew we were good enough to win the league because we had players who were playing at their best, the back-four was really strong and we had the self-belief that we would do it... 'We will beat United, we will beat Liverpool, we're going to win it!'. Our self-belief was really high, and I believe that is what's happening at City."

Vieira does not declare that City's team have the edge over their rivals without good reason, and the Barclays Premier League table that shows the Blues two points and a hatful of goals ahead is reinforced when he scans the team-sheet Mancini is able to pop into the referee's room most weekends.

"We've got the best goalkeeper in the league, maybe in Europe. I believe Joe Hart is up there with Casillas and Neuer as the best goalkeeper in the world. Our back-four is working really hard for each other. We have one of the best players in the world in David Silva, and Yaya Toure has also been fantastic for us this season. Gareth Barry is playing the best football he has ever played.

> "It's in our hands to win the title. We are a better side than United"

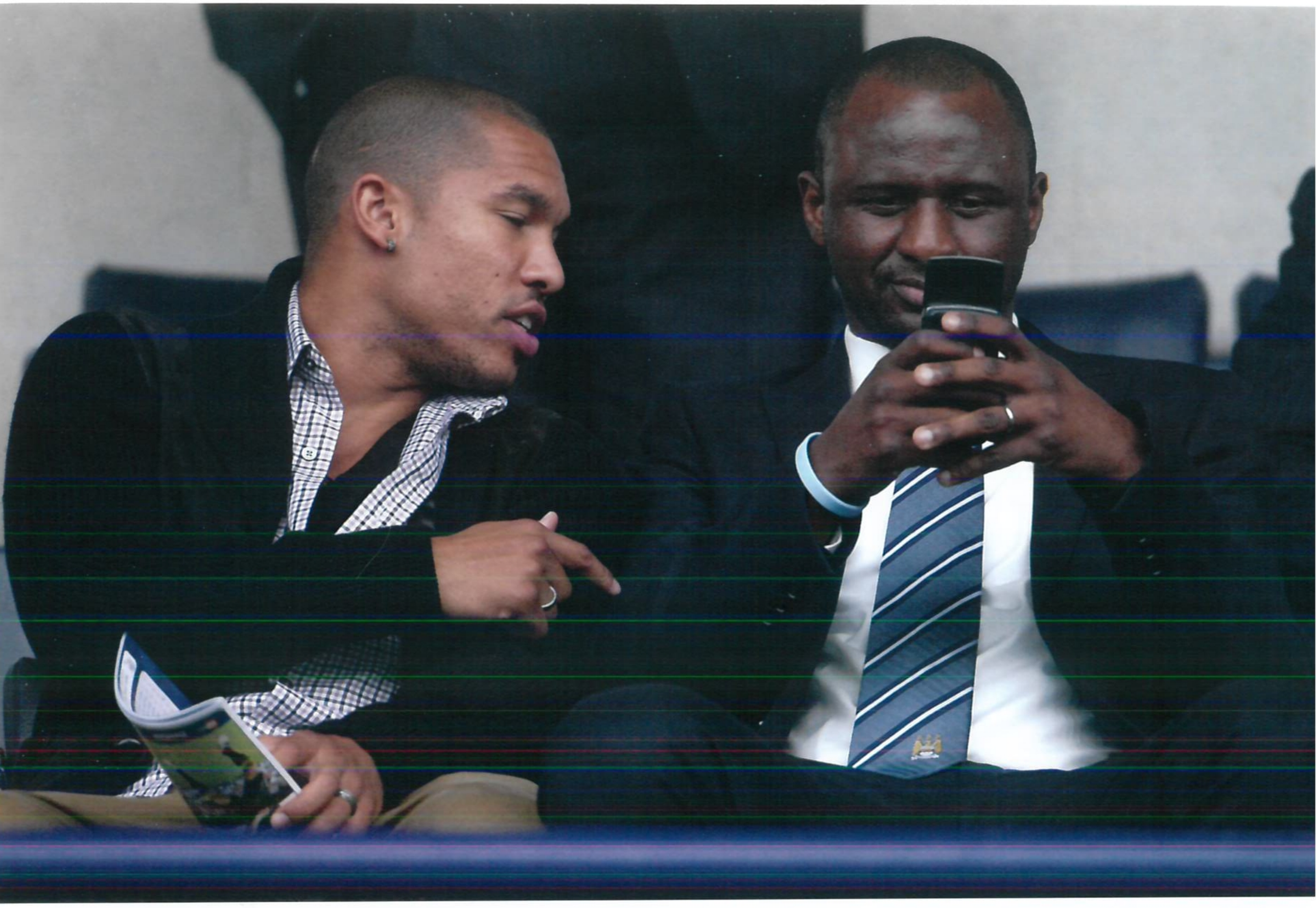
"I believe we have the team to win the league – we are strong enough to win the league. Every time I see the players, they believe they can do it. They are a young team who are ambitious... every ingredient is there to do it."

Having been one of the driving forces within one of the best teams the Premier League has witnessed – Vieira's Arsenal were dubbed "The Invincibles" when they negotiated a whole season undefeated in 2003-04 – he knows how important winning that first trophy can be, and like several others has noted the impact that last season's FA Cup success has made on the players.

"When you look around at the players you play next to, it gives you belief. That gives you momentum. Winning the FA Cup makes you think that you are a really strong side, a *really* strong side. Winning the FA Cup gives you a belief that you can challenge anybody else in the league. You go onto the field as the FA Cup winners, so other teams start to take us seriously.

"They take us seriously because we have talent in the team and now we are fighting to win the league. Winning the league will put us on a different level as a football club, as a team, and on a personal level. You will believe more in yourself, your partner, and your club. That puts you on a different level.







"When you look at our squad, it's 20 players who are all internationals. They're all young and really ambitious. All the players come here to write the story of the football club and to win the league. Every day when I go to Carrington I see players who are really committed, concentrated and want to achieve the same objective."

Arsenal, or at least the Arsenal of old when Vieira was in his pomp, would not be a bad example for any club to follow. Although for all that Mancini has prised away Samir Nasri and Gael Clichy, the Italian master is clearly building a squad and team ethos based on his own beliefs.

Vieira says: "What this team reminds me of from Arsenal is that the focus is there as a team. What I really like of this team, and makes me remember Arsenal, is the atmosphere in the dressing room. There is a group of lads who have a really strong relationship, really friendly and really strong.

> "What I really like of this team, and makes me remember Arsenal, is the atmosphere in the dressing room"

"At Arsenal I liked going to training every day, because the atmosphere was really good, and I feel at City it is the same. I feel the club and Roberto create this relationship with the players who like to be together, who like to spend time together – that's the start to success... players who want to achieve the same objective."

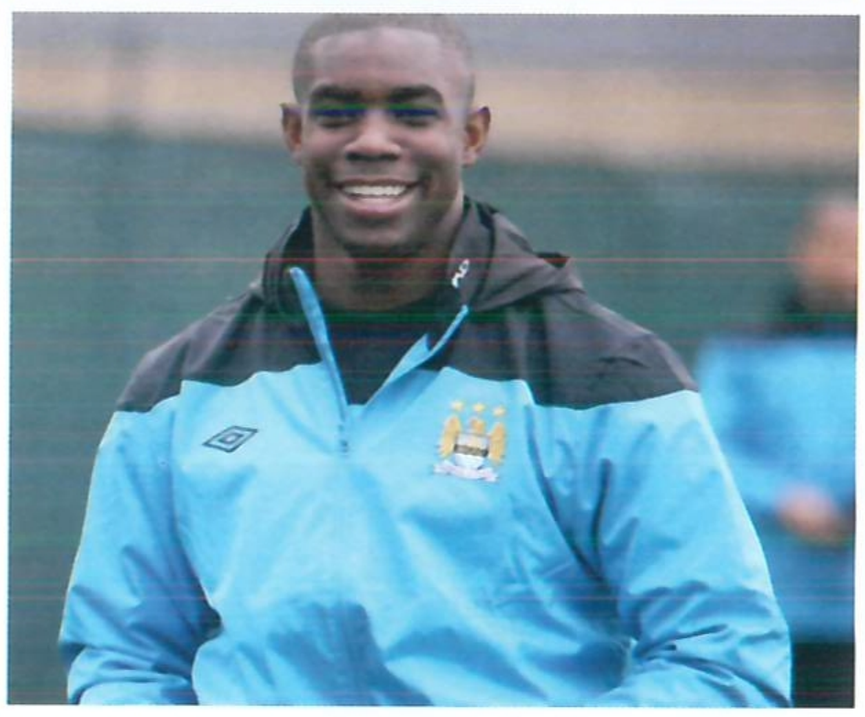
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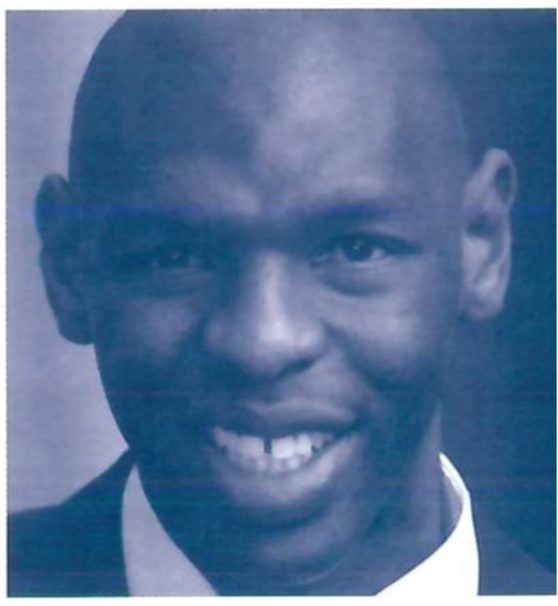
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The Shaun Goater column

Read The Goat



I'm not expecting another game like Blackburn turned out to be last week when we play Bolton today. I think Rovers are more restricted in how they can play certain games, but I think Owen Coyle is wily enough to know parking the bus would be a mistake.

Bolton's defensive record suggests if they did try that, they could be in for a long afternoon, but we'll have to wait and see.

I can't imagine what it must be like for managers preparing to play City at the Etihad Stadium – where do you begin? We've won 17 out of 20 games, with the only set-backs being in the Champions League (Napoli) and the FA and Carling Cups.

If we win today, I think we have a great chance of ending the season with a 100 per cent home record in the league and that would be a first.

With United away to Tottenham, we can't afford any slip-ups and we need to keep piling the pressure on both those clubs – if we do, hopefully they will lose heart at some point. Well, I can hope!

> "With United away to Tottenham, we can't afford any slip-ups and we need to keep piling the pressure on both those clubs"

Bolton have had a few away wins this season and it's a good job they have – their home form has been pretty poor and without those points on the road, they'd be coming into this game below Wigan. We have to be careful and focus on every game as though it's a cup final, because in essence, that's exactly the case.

The fact is, if we win all 12, we'll be champions. If one of those wins was against United, we'd only have to win 11 – each win takes us a step closer, so we can't take our eye off the ball for even a second.



Sergio Aguero had this effort blocked against Blackburn's Grant Hanley.

We have Swansea after today and then Chelsea at home, so the games don't get any easier! The perfect scenario this weekend would be for us to beat Bolton and Spurs to beat United because that would restore our five-point cushion which could prove crucial. I've no doubt the Reds are feeding off our successes and it's driving them on – they are scraping wins, just as they did at Norwich last Sunday – but that is, I believe, because of the dread they have of handing the Premier League trophy over to us in May.

Just imagine if it goes right until the last game of the season… I don't think my nerves could stand that!

The Next Generation

Elite Development Squad

by Andy Welsh



International recognition

Hello and welcome to today's game. During last week's international break, Karim Rekik represented Holland Under-19s against Switzerland while Eirik Johansen played for Norway at Under-21 level against Slovenia. These international fixtures at such a level can only enhance the current development of our young players.

Mixed results in Central League Cup

Our Central League Cup campaign got off to an encouraging start at Hyde by defeating an experienced Tranmere Rovers reserve team 5-0.

We played very well as the score suggests, with our goals coming from Luca Scapuzzi – a hat-trick – Ahmed Benali and a superb free-kick from Denis Suarez. George Evans continues to show good promise in the midfield area and these tough, physical encounters will be of benefit to the Elite Development Squad. On the night we defended well, we took our chances with good finishing and our work-rate on the ball was very good.

Luca scored again this week, but unfortunately we were on the wrong end of a 3-1 scoreline in another Central League Cup fixture, this time with Preston North End. The lads were up against a slightly older and more experienced side, but it is in games like this that our young players can learn and where the result is not necessarily the only thing that matters.

Gai Assulin and Abdul Razak continue their loans at Brighton in the Championship and both have made positive debuts. They must continue to work hard to cement a starting place in a team that is performing well and pushing for promotion.

Manchester Senior Cup ambitions

On Tuesday, this week, we play Bolton reserves at Hyde in our final Manchester Senior Cup game. As it stands we have already qualified for the final, unless there is a huge swing in goal difference! However, we will be looking to remain defeated in the group stage and win our sixth game in a row to make sure we can recapture the trophy we last won in 2010.

We beat Bolton 1-0 at the Reebok Stadium that time, with the winning goal coming from Alex Nimely who is currently on loan at Championship Coventry – which shows how the lads can develop and grow from the start they are getting here at Manchester City.

Enjoy the game!

Central League Cup

Group A	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Preston North End	3	2	0	1	7	5	+2	6
Manchester City	2	1	0	1	6	3	+3	3
Tranmere Rovers	3	1	0	2	6	8	-2	3
Morecambe	2	1	0	1	4	7	-3	3

Semi-final draw

Derby County v Sunderland

Stoke City v Winner Group A



Young Blue

Kieran Kennedy

Position: Centre-back

Date of birth: 23.09.93

Nationality: English

When did you join City? Under-6s

Previous club: Urmston Town

Career highlight: Playing for England

Favourite food: Gammon, chips and gravy

Other sports played: Pool, table tennis

Favourite holiday destination: Spain

Best goal ever scored: One against United for the Under-12s

Hero/career influence: Paulo Maldini

Favourite movies: *Anuvahood* and *300*

Favourite actor: Robert Downey Jnr

Academy Update

by Mark Allen Head of Academy



League win makes up for cup exit

After the disappointment of going out of the FA Youth Cup, the boys had an excellent chance to respond with a home derby against United and respond they did.

As in all these games it is important to get off to a good start, and on eight minutes a great move down the left-hand side saw an Alex Henshall cross cannon off a United defender for an own goal to give us the lead. The goal certainly settled us down and some continued pressure paid off with another excellent move, finished with an incisive pass from Devante Cole for Albert Rusnak to tuck away, giving us a 2-0 advantage at half-time.

The second half saw United start on the front foot but after we appeared to have weathered the storm, United broke down the right through Jack Barmby before he pulled it back for Luke Hendrie to bring the score back to 2-1.

The pleasing aspect for us was that the lads responded well, and they gradually reimposed themselves on the game with a wave of attacks. The two-goal cushion was restored on 65 minutes when a well-worked move allowed Adam Drury to find space on the right-hand side. He was able to attack the full-back, and a pinpoint cross found Devante Cole, who nipped in to score with an excellent finish at the near post.

The boys continued to play well and were unlucky not to get a fourth, but the game finished with us securing not only a 3-1 victory but also a league double over United.

Another excellent performance from our Under-16 team also saw them run out 2-1 victors over their United counterparts.

West Brom dispatched

Next on the league agenda was a tricky away tie to West Bromwich Albion.

Once again the lads started well and they enjoyed a five-minute spell from the kick-off where West Brom did not touch the ball. The domination continued and we were rewarded on 20 minutes when a great run from Adam Drury saw a West Brom defender bring him down in the box for a penalty. Albert Rusnak strode up and rifled the ball into the roof of the net to give us a deserved lead and a stranglehold on the game. We continued to dominate possession for the remainder of the half and, indeed, were unlucky not to stretch our lead.

West Brom started the second half a lot better, and for 20 minutes we took our foot off the gas. We regained our composure and were able to see the game out 1-0 to secure our place at the top of the table.

The fixtures will be coming thick and fast now and our next two games see us at home to Sheffield Wednesday (today) and Leeds United next Saturday.



Courtney Meppen-Walter gets a header on goal against Preston reserves on Tuesday.

EDS Fixtures

NextGen Series

Sep	15	**H**	**Barcelona**	1-2
Oct	5	A	Marseille	0-3
Oct	17	**H**	**Celtic**	2-4
Nov	3	A	Barcelona	1-4
Nov	7	A	Celtic	1-2
Nov	24	**H**	**Marseille**	1-2

Manchester Senior Cup

Aug	17	**H**	**Oldham Athletic**	3-0
Oct	25	A	**Stockport County**	5-0
Dec	8	**H**	**Rochdale**	3-2
Jan	23	A	Bury	3-1
Feb	9	A	Manchester United	4-2
Mar	6	**H**	**Bolton Wanderers**	

Lancashire Senior Cup

Jan	9	A	Blackpool	1-2

Central League Cup

Feb	20	**H**	**Tranmere Rovers**	5-0
Feb	28	A	Preston North End	1-3
Mar	21	A	Morecambe	

Fixtures are subject to change
Home games to be played at Hyde FC

Under-18s Fixtures

FA Premier Academy

Aug	20	A	Coventry City	4-3
Aug	27	**H**	**Ipswich Town**	3-1
Sep	3	**H**	**Huddersfield T**	6-0
Sep	10	**H**	**Newcastle Utd**	2-3
Sep	17	A	Nottingham Forest	2-1
Sep	24	**H**	**Crewe Alexandra**	3-1
Oct	1	A	Manchester United	3-1
Oct	8	**H**	**West Bromwich A**	0-0
Oct	15	A	Wolverhampton W	0-3
Oct	29	**H**	**Stoke City**	2-0
Nov	5	**H**	**Blackburn Rovers**	2-4
Nov	12	A	Everton	4-2
Nov	19	**H**	**Liverpool**	1-3
Dec	3	A	Bolton Wanderers	3-2
Dec	10	**H**	**Wolverhampton W**	6-1
Jan	7	A	Blackburn Rovers	1-0
Jan	21	A	Liverpool	1-1
Jan	28	**H**	**Bolton Wanderers**	0-3
Feb	18	**H**	**Manchester Utd**	3-1
Feb	25	A	West Bromwich A	1-0
Mar	3	**H**	**Sheffield Wed**	
Mar	10	**H**	**Leeds United**	
Mar	17	A	Barnsley	
Mar	31	A	Sunderland	
Apr	21	A	Derby County	
May	5		Play-off Semi-Final	
May	12		Final	
TBA		A	Stoke City	
		H	**Everton**	
		A	Crewe Alexandra	

FA Youth Cup

Nov	30	**H**	**Corby Town**	4-1
Jan	17	A	Swindon Town	4-1
Feb	15	**H**	**Fulham**	1-2

Ladies Lowdown

by Katy Jones

Enfield trip brings more cup progress

After a great run of results in the league, last week it was time for more cup action, with our ladies travelling south to play Southern Combination team Enfield Town Ladies FC in the Fourth Round of the FA Women's Cup.

City Ladies have been having a good run in all cup competitions since the turn of the year, having already reached the County Cup final on 9th March at Manchester Athletics Arena. We have also played one/won one in the League Cup group stages, and have had two earlier victories in the FA Cup.

Before this tie manager Leigh Wood said: "The game will be a new test for us, as we haven't played a southern team for a number of years. With Enfield sitting third in the league we know they will be a good hard-working team, so we will be in for a tough game. However, I do believe that if we approach the game with the same professionalism, desire and quality that we have done all season we will come away with the positive result we are looking for."

So last Sunday – on a warm sunny afternoon – City Ladies travelled to Enfield Town. After a slow start, with Enfield Town looking to soak up pressure and catch us on the break, Wood made a tactical change resulting in more creativity. On 40 minutes Becky Grocott managed to elude the Enfield defence and lob the goalkeeper giving City a one-goal lead at the break.

The second half continued in the same vein with our ladies dominating possession and pressuring the Enfield backline. It looked extremely likely that our ladies would soon get that second goal, but they were made to wait and play a test of patience. Half an hour into the second period this patience paid off when substitute Krystal Johnston found space on the right and crossed for Sarah Buffel to slot home in emphatic fashion. A calm assured performance for the rest of the half ensured City were into the next of the FA Cup with a clean and clinical display.

After the game manager Leigh Wood commented: "A professional performance by the Ladies with two bits of quality ensuring our progress through to the Fifth Round of the FA Cup. Well done ladies."

City squad v Enfield Town

Danielle Brown, Francesca Champ, Chelsea Nightingale, Felicity Middleton, Kelly McLellan, Abbie McManus, Danielle Young, Lindsay Savage, Amanda Goodwin, Rebecca Lee, Rosie Havlin, Ellena Turner, Krystle Johnston, Saffron Jordan, Becky Grocott, Alice Hey, Sarah Buffel.





Player Profile

Over the season we'll be getting to know our female footy stars much better, with a closer look at what they get up to outside of City. This week: a Scouser midfielder who helped defeat Enfield in the cup...

Sarah Buffel

Nickname: "Buff"

Age: 25

Position: Left midfield

Hometown: Liverpool

Former clubs: Rochdale Ladies

Favourite team: Liverpool

Favourite player: Lionel Messi

Best moment in football: Beating Blackburn Ladies in the Lancashire Cup final 2009.

Occupation: Secondary School English Teacher

Describe your usual day: Teach at a high school in Rochdale during the week. Play football and go on walks with my dogs at the weekend.

Worst habit: Cracking my fingers.

Favourite food: Chinese

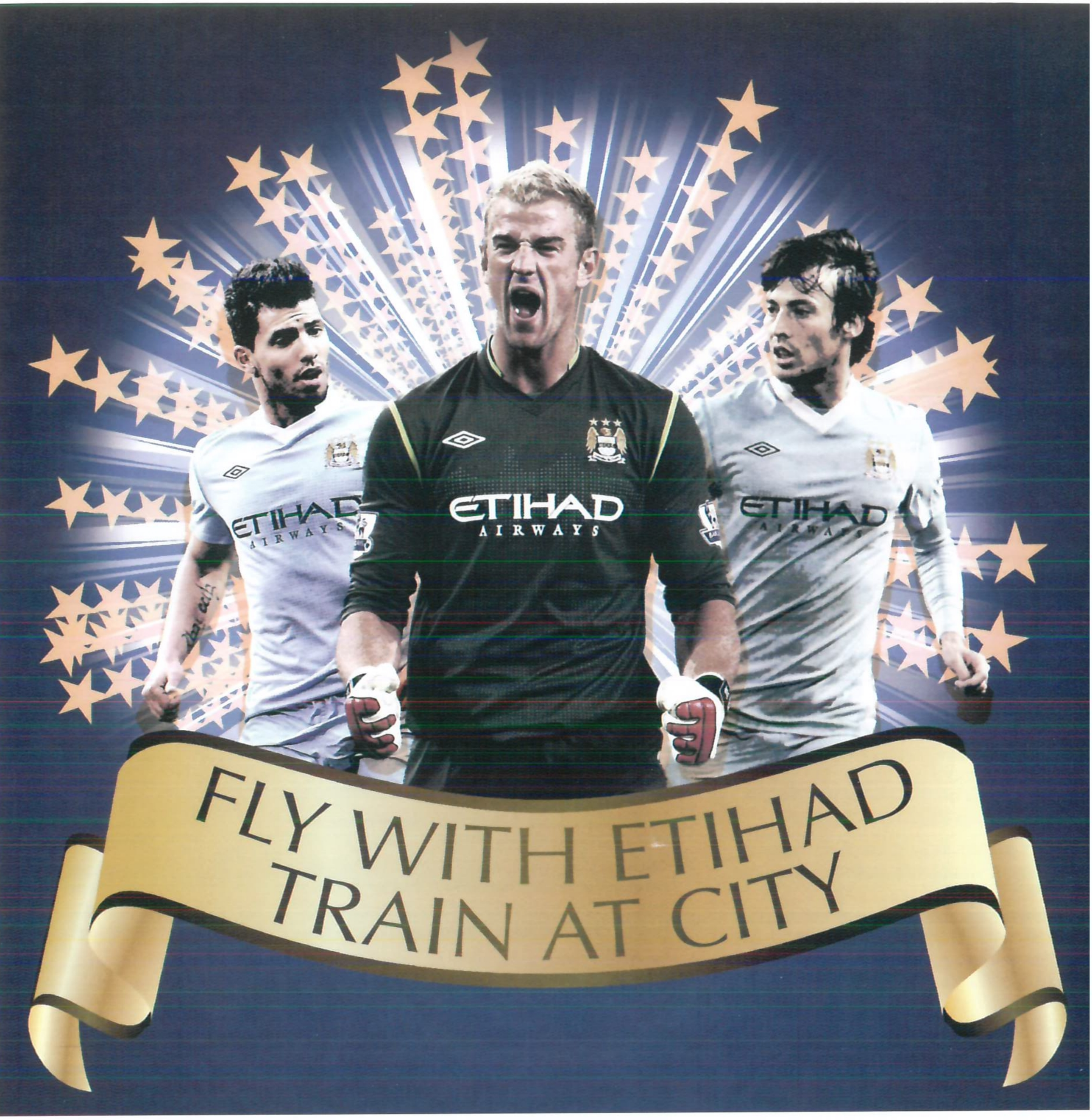
Favourite films: *Taken, Limitless, Sex And The City* and *The Hangover*

Favourite song: My all time favourite... Whitney Houston's "I Wanna Dance With Somebody"

Ambition: To become an outstanding teacher, retire before I'm 50, then design and build my own house in the countryside with a few acres of land... not asking for much!

Sponsors wanted

Manchester City Ladies FC is a self-funded, grass roots ladies football club and is always on the lookout for new sponsors. If you think you could contribute, then please call our fundraising coordinator Nichola Huddlestone for further details on 07794 134125 or email her at nichola.huddlestone@gmail.com



Fly Etihad Airways to win an exclusive training session for you and a friend with Manchester City

Etihad Airways, the World's Leading Airline, is giving one City fan the chance to win an exclusive behind-the-scenes experience at the Manchester City training ground.

This fantastic prize includes a training session at the first team training ground, a meet-and-greet with the manager and his coaching staff, and a full replica home kit.

Simply book a flight with Etihad before 31st March 2012 and email your booking confirmation to **manchestercity@etihad.ae**. Every flight booking is equal to an entry, so you can enter as many times as you wish!

If you're thinking of going on holiday this year, book with Etihad Airways and you could experience the chance of a lifetime and train like Manchester City.

Fly with the best. Train like the best.

*Terms and conditions apply. Winners will be announced in April.

ETIHAD AIRWAYS

Mike Summerbee

The Buzz

> “Some reports harangued Blackburn for a lack of attacking ambition but that is not entirely fair on Steve Kean’s side. We just wouldn’t let them have the ball!”

Here we are again for the second of two successive home games against near neighbours.

I don’t know about you, but as a fan I am still purring about the win over Blackburn Rovers last weekend. It was a thoroughly professional performance against a side that had won at Old Trafford and drawn at Anfield.

Some reports chose to focus on Blackburn and harangued them for a lack of attacking ambition but that is not entirely fair on Steve Kean’s side. We just wouldn’t let them have the ball!

Our players looked full of confidence. They all wanted the ball and all used it intelligently. The goals were all superbly taken – two of them were well worked, too – and there could have been a lot more. The great thing is that when you look at the bench there is so much quality waiting to come on if someone is having an off-day.

I have said it before in this column but it is worth saying again how well Roberto Mancini has rotated his squad this season. He has made so many good decisions that have kept the momentum rolling along.

We are exactly where we would want to be at this stage of the season – at the top. I know that many City fans will have been miffed that Norwich couldn’t hold on for a point against United on Sunday afternoon that would have extended our advantage.

But in my opinion we have to stop worrying about what they are doing and just expect them to win. There is no doubt we have the quality to go out and match whatever any other team does in the final 12 games of the season.

We all need to pull together – team, fans, staff, everyone with City in their hearts and blood – and be confident. If we do that and play to our full capability then the Barclays Premier League Trophy will be residing in the Etihad Stadium next season and if that happens there will not be a prouder man than me. It is time us old lads who won the First Division back in 1960s stepped aside for a bunch of new heroes.

Having said that, it is nice to see that we can still teach the new breed a trick or two... I notice that young Patrick Vieira has recently launched himself on Twitter and in fact is going to be talking live on that social media channel (listen to me!) at the end of today’s game.

Of course, I have been on Twitter for ages now so I will be giving Patrick some tips during the match!

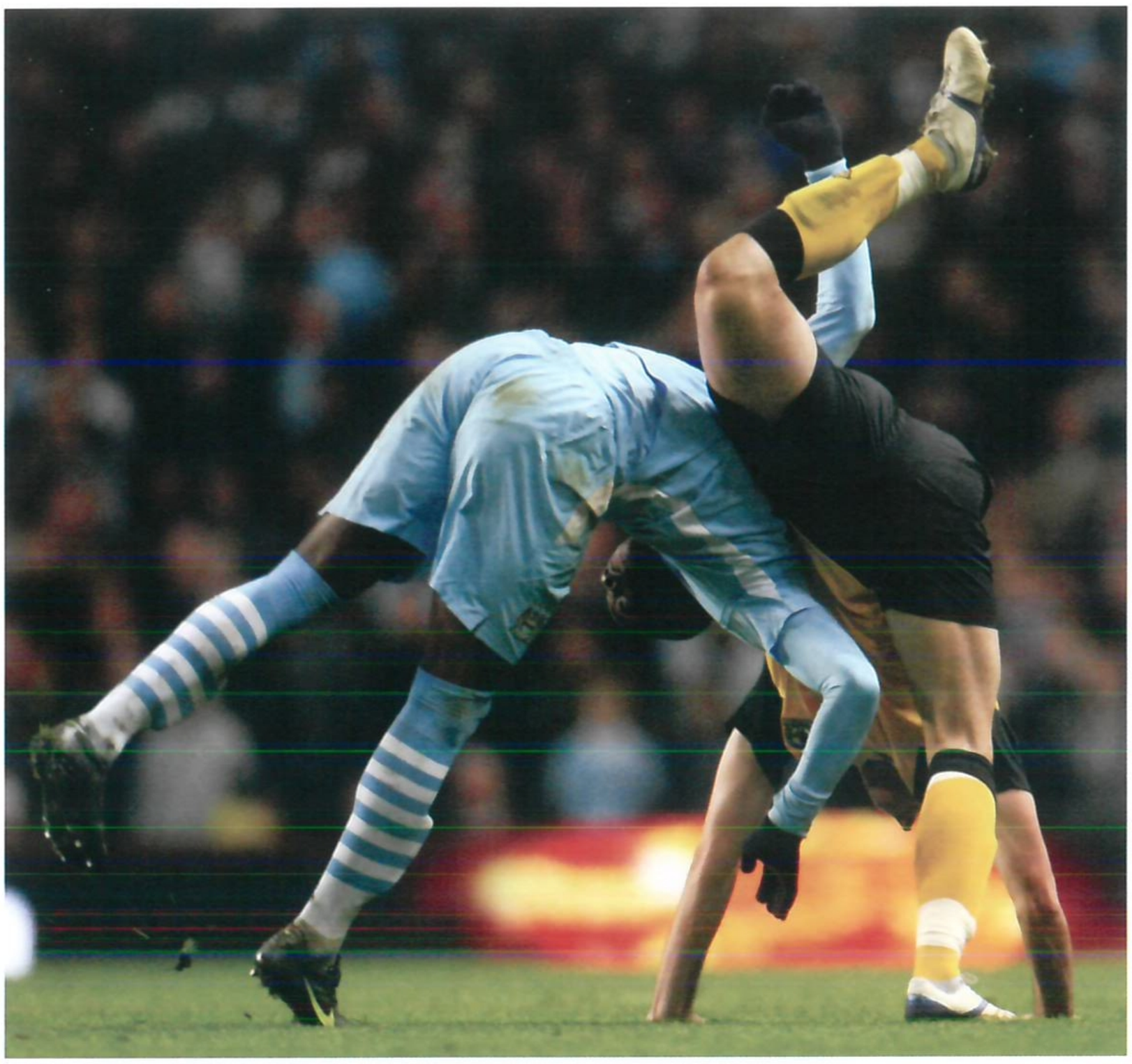


Right: Mario playing *Twister* with Rovers’ Bradley Orr.

Below: Mario Balotelli scoring his goal against Blackburn.

Below right: We welcome back Martin Petrov today.





Seriously, I think it is great how this club and the players communicate with the fans. Skipper Vincent Kompany did a live chat last week and it is just a part of the supporters, players and club becoming much closer to one another.

I go to most games and you can't beat a matchday at Etihad Stadium. City Square is a fabulous addition, we have all that behind-the-scenes stuff on the website and the former players are treated so well and still have a big presence. This club will never lose its soul or its values.

Today we entertain Bolton who, like Blackburn last week, are in trouble towards the bottom of the table. It is not good that (with Wigan down there, too) three of the North West's Premier League sides are struggling. I'd like to see them all survive if possible. Football teams are so important to their towns.

They bring in much needed visitors on a regular basis and therefore much needed income and publicity. It would be a shame in Blackburn, Bolton or Wigan lost their top-flight status.

Having said that, I'd rather Bolton's revival begins *next* week! Owen Coyle is a football man through-and-through and I am sure his side will be hard to beat today. We will not be seeing Dedryck Boyata but we might get a glimpse of our former player Martin Petrov who scored some great goals for us while he was here.

Finally today I would like to say a big hello to young Holly Worsley who is among our mascots and player escorts today – she asked Patrick and me if she could walk onto the pitch with Vincent after she had an op to correct a problem with her foot. She is a little fighter and her family must be very proud of her. I hope she has a fabulous time.

And I hope everyone else enjoys the match, too!

@mcfcbuzzer



Manchester's Missing Persons

MCFC and GMP are once again working together in enlisting your help to locate the following missing people. If you are able to help, please call the Greater Manchester Police Missing Persons Unit on 0161 856 2216/2234 quoting the relevant MP reference number or visit our website: **www.gmp.police.uk**



Norman Johnson

Age, date of birth: 70 years old, 15/03/41

Missing from the Tonge Moor area of Bolton since 29th March 2011. Last seen wearing a black jumper, black shirt, black trousers and black boots.

MP ref number: MP/11/0055444



Salim Nakhuda

Age, date of birth: 28 years old, 24/08/83

Missing from the Deane area of Bolton, since 26th October 2009. Last seen wearing a black coat, white-striped T-shirt, white Nike tracksuit bottoms and black trainers.

MP ref number: MP/09/0043050



John Holt

Age, date of birth: 48 years old, 10/05/63

Missing from Bolton since 16th December 2000.

MP ref number: MP/04/0000070

citc
city in the community

Come 'Pay and Play' every Tuesday and Thursday

City in the Community are offering young footballers the opportunity to take part in "Pay and Play" football sessions held at the Manchester Tennis and Football Centre.

For just £1 per session children get the chance to get involved in various soccer skills practices and to take part in five-a-side matches coordinated by our CITC Football Coaches.

The sessions take place every Tuesday and Thursday on state-of-the art 3G pitches. They are open to boys and girls of all abilities aged 6-14 years. No booking is required although a registration form needs to be completed on attendance.

The sessions are divided into specific age groups:

Tuesday 4-5pm ages 6-10
Tuesday 5-6pm ages 11-14
Thursday 4-5pm ages 6-10
Thursday 5-6pm ages 11-14

All players are required to wear appropriate clothing and footwear; such as astroturf trainers or moulded stud boots and are advised to bring refreshments.

For further information contact us on **0161 438 7711** or email **community@mcfc.co.uk**









Please support the Kilimanjaro challenge

In November a team of eight staff from across Manchester City Football Club, alongside staff from Umbro are teaming up to tackle the heights of Africa's Mount Kilimanjaro.

The challenge is being supported by City in the Community and the funds raised will go towards Shoot for the Moon – the exciting new partnership to help young people reach their goals.

The task will be to carry two (very small) goals to the peak of the world's highest stand-alone mountain and kick a few balls around at the summit, while wearing the trademark sky blue of City!

This is a hugely exciting challenge for a group of ordinary people with a desire to challenge themselves way beyond their own personal boundaries and who want to make a difference, while supporting and raising funds for worthwhile causes.

Planes, trains and automobiles (and feet) will get them there... To view the sponsor page and see how the trek is shaping up or to support the project please visit **www.justgiving.com/MCFCKILIMANJARO**

Sign up for the Manchester Mile

The Sainsbury's Sport Relief Mile in Manchester is kicking off on Sunday 25th March with a brand new city centre route.

City in the Community will be on hand with a host of family activities including a penalty shoot-out, street soccer skills challenge and health activities such as a funky fitness, boxercise and static bikes.

With a host of attractions and entertainment along the mile-long course there should be something to entertain everyone.

So lace up your best pair of trainers and come and enjoy a fun-packed Sunday afternoon. Be part of something amazing... enter The Manchester Mile now!

Visit **sportrelief.com** for details, or mcfc.co.uk for more details on the Manchester City and Sport Relief charity partnership, Shoot for the Moon.

Football Foundation

PREMIER LEAGUE CREATING chances

PREMIER LEAGUE community fund.

SHOOT FOR THE MOON

Helping young people reach their goals.

citc
city in the community



Sunderland on 31st March declared City's 'Giving Game'

Manchester City has nominated the first-team Premier League game against Sunderland on Saturday March 31st as the 2011-12 season Giving Game. This is an opportunity for all members of the City family to actively support the Shoot for the Moon partnership by fundraising around the matchday.

Shoot for the Moon is the fundraising partnership between Manchester City and Sport Relief, raising money to help young people and families in East Manchester achieve their goals.

The "Giving Game" allows players, celebrities, club sponsors as well as the local and worldwide fan-base to join together at a top Premier League match, to raise funds for Shoot for the Moon via the MCFC and Sport Relief partnership.

There's a whole range of ways for fans to get involved with the MCFC Giving Game including:

- **Fans will be invited to have their name displayed on the LED screens on the perimeter of the pitch.**
- **There will be pre-match entertainment in City Square and special, themed activity at half-time.**
- **Fans will have the opportunity to purchase exclusive, limited-edition framed photographs of the players, with all proceeds going to the Shoot for the Moon partnership.**

Shoot for the Moon focuses on creating opportunities through football and urban sports. This is just one of the fun events that Manchester people will have the opportunity to participate in, and help us to raise as much money as we can for young people and families within the Greater Manchester area.

There will be a series of exciting events in the future, such as comedy nights and celebrations of Manchester music. All money raised will be spent on projects within the Manchester area.

SHOOT FOR THE MOON

Helping young people reach their goals.

Official Partner
of Manchester City
Football Club

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OFFICIAL FUEL ECONOMY FIGURES FOR JAGUAR RANGE IN MPG (L/100KM): URBAN 14.9 (18.9) – 42.8 (6.6); EXTRA URBAN 32.4 (8.7) – 58.9 (4.8); COMBINED 22.5 (12.5) – 51.3 (5.4). CO_2 EMISSIONS 292 – 149 G/KM.

*On the road price is manufacturers recommended retail price.

XJ | XK | XF

JAGUAR



Yas Island – it's top of the pops!

For 29 years, one woman has worn the crown of "Queen of Pop". With a collection of personal accolades almost as long as her hit record count, this "Material Girl" will release her 12th studio album later this month.

As one of the most celebrated and decorated musicians in history, this revered artist's talents go significantly beyond just singing and songwriting – she is also a renowned record producer, dancer, actress, film producer, film director, fashion designer, author, entrepreneur and philanthropist.

Indeed, when *Time* magazine recognises you as one of the 25 Most Powerful Women of the Past Century, you know you're doing something right! We think this superstar should "Take A Bow" after continuously reinventing both her "Music" and her image to remain forever in "Vogue".

So, who is this "Beautiful Stranger"? It's Madonna! The world's top-selling female recording artist is playing her first Middle East concert at Abu Dhabi's Yas Arena, on 3rd June as part of Yas Island Show Weekends.

Concert of a lifetime

Performing exclusively as part of her Global Tour, this not-to-be missed concert is set to make dreams come true for thousands. From die-hard Madonna fans to general music lovers, concert goers of all generations can expect a pop extravaganza as one of the best live shows in the world renowned for exceptional production, choreography, performance and artistic flair comes to Abu Dhabi.

So if you fancy a "Holiday", then escape the "Rain" and experience the concert of the decade as Madonna (she's a "True Blue" too, don't you know) makes her Abu Dhabi debut.

Hala Abu Dhabi, the destination management company of Etihad Airways, has teamed up with Flash Entertainment, the concert organiser, to produce a variety of packages to ensure you can enjoy the show in comfort and style.

Packages include concert tickets, ground arrangements and hotel accommodation – including the option of a stay at the iconic Yas Viceroy, the only hotel in the world that straddles a Formula One™ track – with a wide selection of event partners. For more details, log onto **www.Etihad.com/Madonna**, or visit **www.thinkflash.ae**.

Take a spin at Yas Marina Circuit!

And the thrill-seeking doesn't stop there! Experience the unbelievable speed of Abu Dhabi's majestic Formula One™ circuit while you're on Yas Island with a series of track day packages at Yas Marina Circuit. You can choose from a variety of Driver Experiences,

Passenger Experiences, Private Driving Tuition programmes and Racing License Courses that will transform your driving prowess. More information can be found at:
www.yasmarinacircuit.ae

Additionally, the clock is already ticking down to the 2012 Formula One™ Etihad Airways Abu Dhabi Grand Prix – to be held 2nd-4th November. If you want to be first in the queue when ticket information is released, click on the Yas Marina Circuit website and register your details to secure your "early bird" notices direct from the race organisers.

Music, motorsport… and golf!

Yas Island is also home to Yas Links – the Middle East's only links-style golf course.

Set among rolling hills and delicate mangrove plantations, every daunting hole has sparkling coastline views of the Arabian Gulf, with eight of them running right up along the coastline.

Voted among the Top 10 New International Golf Courses of 2011 by the USA's influential, Golf Magazine, the par-72 championship course stretches to a demanding 7,450 yards, while a nine-hole par-3 academy course, floodlit practice facilities and luxurious clubhouse further complement the idyllic offering.

For more details, visit:
www.golfinabudhabi.ae

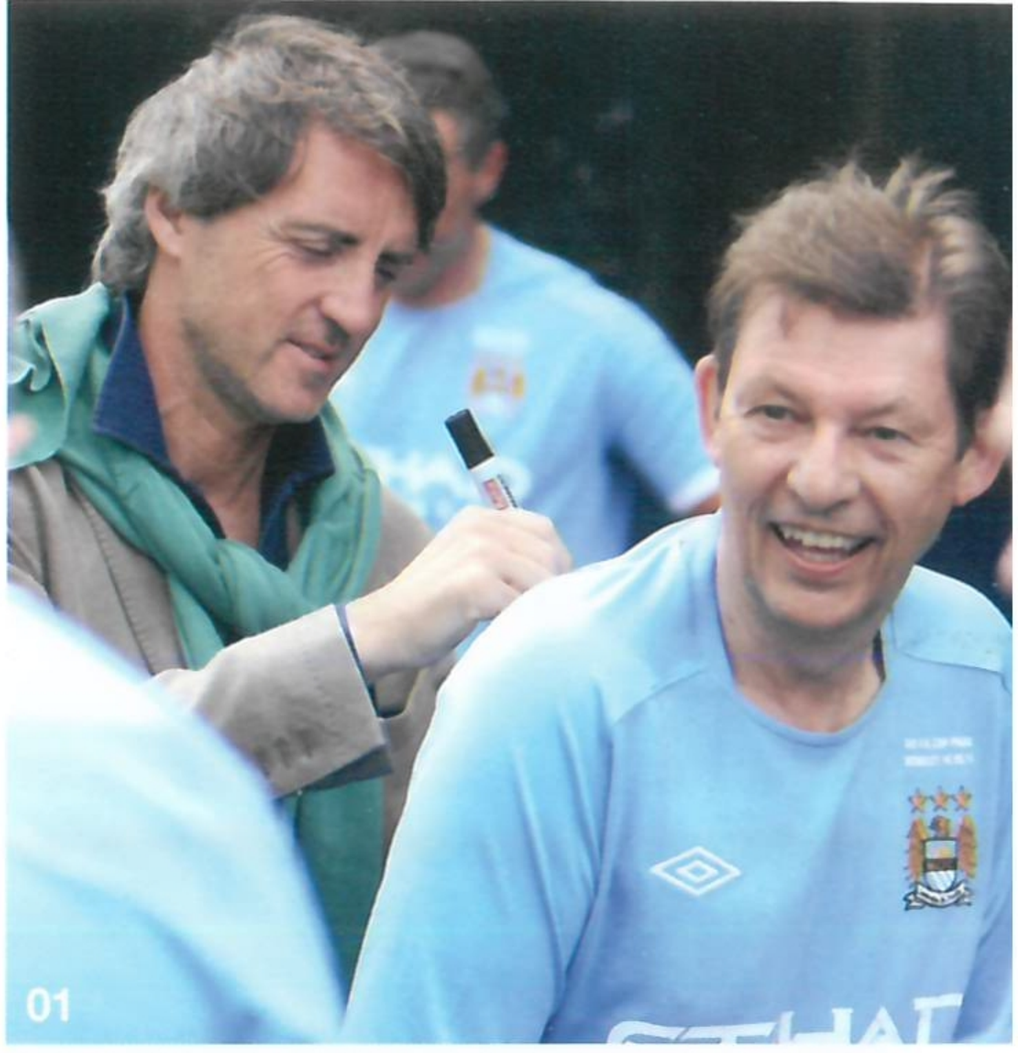
Abu Dhabi… travellers welcome

هيئة أبوظبي للسياحة
ABU DHABI TOURISM AUTHORITY

The Heart of the City

email your messages and pictures to **mcfcprog@aol.com**

Shout Outs



Birthday Blues

01 Stephen Turner is celebrating his 60th birthday in the Citizens Suite today. His son David writes: "My dad is a lifelong Blue and has been bringing me to the game for 60 years now. Last year I won the Etihad 'Train with the Stars' competition and the picture of Roberto Mancini signing dad's shirt is from that day."

02 Also in the Citizens Suite will be **Adriano Magliocco** from Portadown, who is 50 today. Birthday wishes from your wife Marcella.

03 Happy 40th birthday to **Susan Booth**, pictured here with her nephews.

04 This little chap **Dane Carney** celebrates his 18th birthday tomorrow. "Love from mum, dad, Danielle and Asa."

"Happy 40th birthday to **Shaun Holmes** who is in the Colin Bell Stand today. Love from mum, dad, Lisa, Kieran, Isobel and all the family."

05 "Happy 30th birthday wishes to **David Kettles** from all your family."

06 "Happy birthday to **Martyn Ellis**, a lifelong fan who sits in the East Stand with his daughter Lydia. Love from Nadine xx."

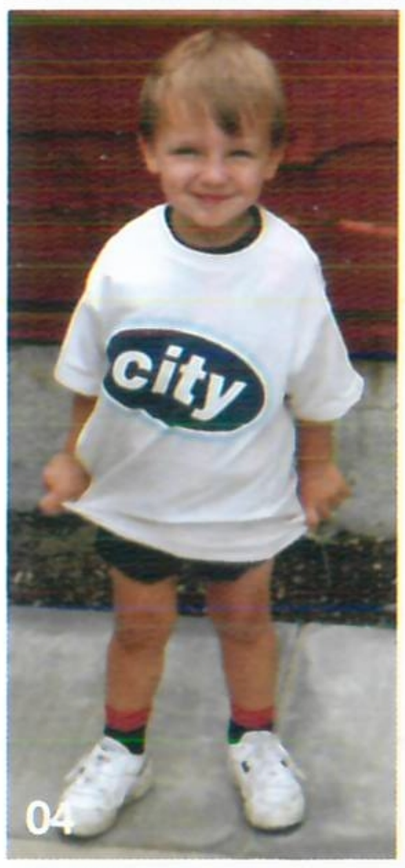
07 Daniel Abel from Tring in Hertfordshire is at the game today celebrating his eighth birthday with his parents and his friend Oliver. Have a great day, Daniel.

08 Alex Davies, pictured here with Mario Balotelli, is 15 tomorrow. He is a Seasoncard holder in the Colin Bell Stand. "Happy birthday Alex from mum, dad, Adam, James and Emily."

09 Holly Worsley will be eight years old on Monday. Holly suffers from cerebral palsy and underwent a very long and painful operation in October 2011. She is now recovering and as a birthday treat her family are bringing her to her first City game.











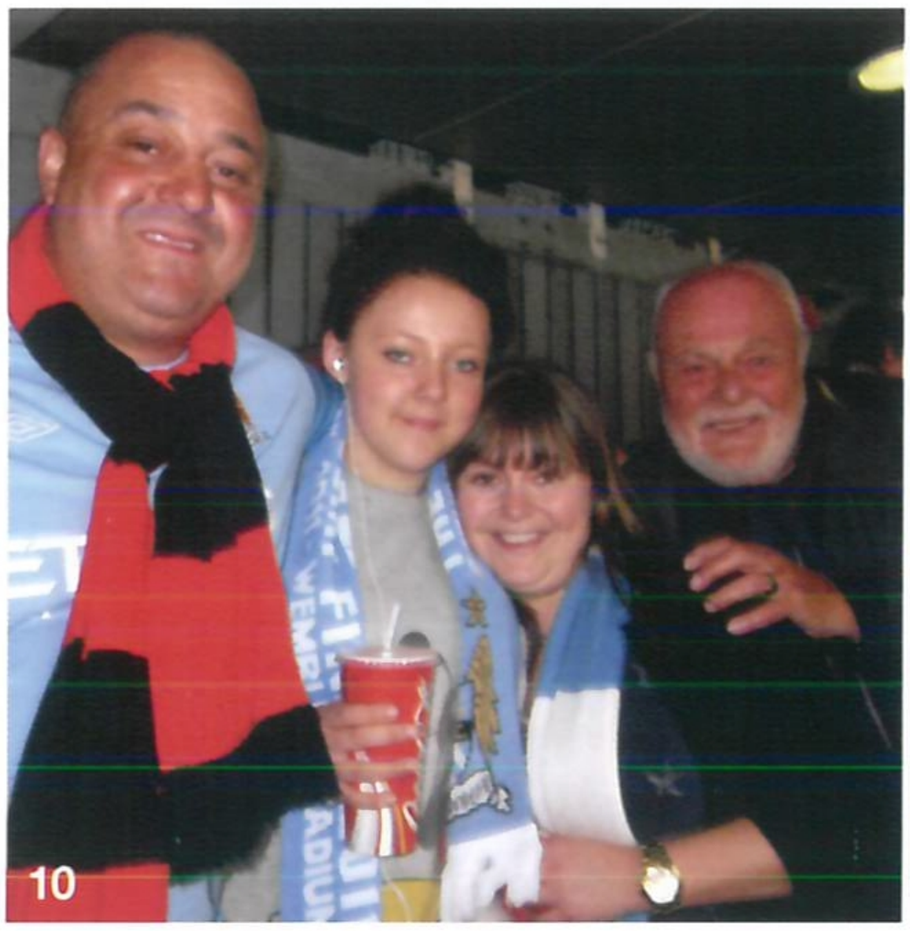




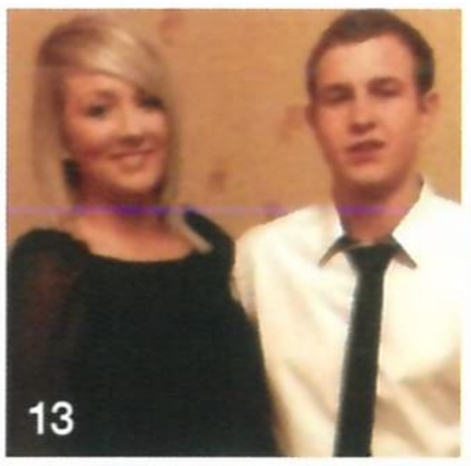


The Heart of the City

...Shout Outs continued


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10 Keith Jones is 78 next weekend. He has been watching City since he was eight so this will be his 70th year of support. Keith was in Vienna when we won the European Cup-Winners' Cup, and has seen the lean years and now hopefully the glory years again. "Happy birthday from daughter Lesley, son Martin, grandchildren Robyn and Taryn, and in-laws Lisa and Wayne." Martin, Taryn, Lesley and Keith are pictured here at Wembley.

11 Happy birthday today to **Stuart Oliver** from wife Tracey and children Tom, Dan and Ashleigh.

12 Birthday wishes to **Barbara McLaughlin** who was 65 on Thursday. "Love from Trevor, Shelley, Sara, Warren, Lee, Beth and Rosler the cat!"

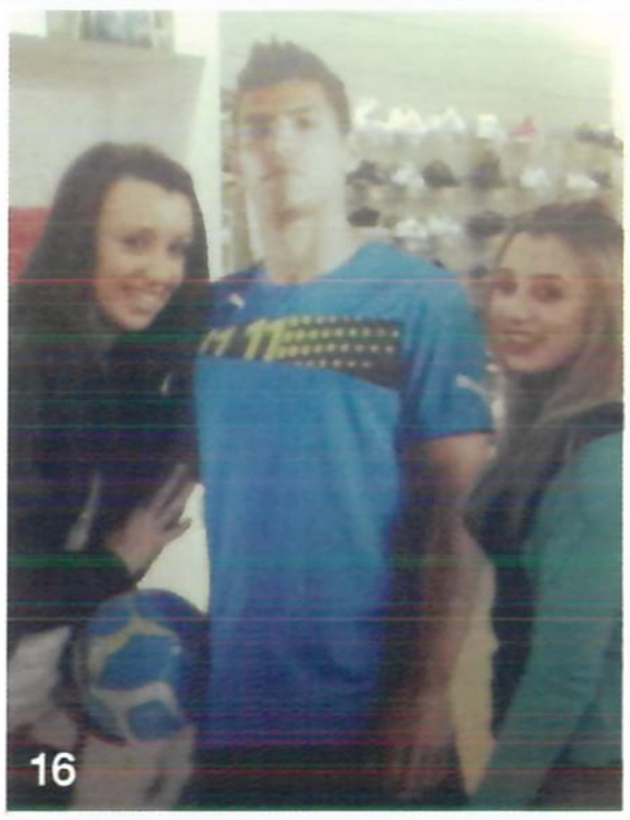
13 Natalia Lloyd who will be 20 on 17th March. She is attending her very first City game today and is a huge fan of Joe Hart. Her boyfriend **Joe Kenzitt** is celebrating his 21st birthday today. "Have a great game, lots of love from Emily xx."

14 Happy 49th birthday to **Angi Sinclair**, pictured greeting Samir Nasri on the day he signed. "Have a great day from your family and hubby Carl."

15 "A happy 13th birthday to **Olivia Pryer** for 9th March. With love from mum, dad and Daniel xx."

16 Happy birthday to **Megan Clarke** from Macclesfield, who is 14 on 19th March. Megan (on the left) met her favourite City player recently (even if it was just a cardboard cut out!). "Love from mum, dad, William and Patrick xxx."

Belated birthday wishes to East Stand Seasoncard holder **Lucy Shiels**, who was 11 on 21st February.


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"Happy 40th birthday to **Mark Whiston** with lots of love from mum and Dave x."

17 "A very happy 20th birthday for yesterday to **Gemma Baker**, with love from mum and dad xxx."

18 "Happy 18th birthday to **Cameron Davies** for 13th February, from mum and dad."

19 "Happy third birthday to **Molly** from mum, dad, Joshua and Elliot xxx."

Baby Blues

20 "Congratulations to Craig and Claire on the birth of their first baby, a little boy, **Ciaran James**. Another City fan like his daddy and grandad Steve. Lots of love from Auntie Deb and all the family xxx."

21 A new Blue **Seth Patrick Dennis**, son of Michelle and Phil of Farnham in Surrey, is being christened on 10th March in the Church of Our Lady of Perpetual Succour, Foxrock, County Dublin. Fellow Blues auntie Sinead and uncle Mark send their love for his special day.

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The Heart of the City

MCFC Supporters Club (1949)


01


02

Chesterfield – sad news

01 02 We are very sad to report the death of Chesterfield Branch "General" Dane Djordjevic at the age of 87 on 21st February.

Dane, an avid City supporter since 1948, was responsible for many people from that area being Blues, including his son Dave and his great friend Paul Thompson who brought him to every home game from Clowne in north-east Derbyshire.

Dane's last game was against Fulham when he forsook his normal North Stand seat for a place in the Legends Lounge where he enjoyed the company of City great Colin Hendry.

Dane was City through and through and the place won't be the same without him. His family and friends will miss him enormously and our thoughts are with them. He is pictured here celebrating City's cup win at Wembley last season with Paul Thompson and with Colin Hendry at his last game.

Limerick

A big welcome to Jim and Patsy Henneberry from Two-Mile-Borris, County Tipperary. Enjoy the game, lads!

Widnes

The Widnes Branch will be holding an evening with Dennis Tueart on Monday 5th March at The Village club in Widnes (postcode WA8 6PD). Dennis will be signing copies of his latest book and will also be taking part in a Q&A session from 7.30pm. If you would like to attend or would like to know more please email mcfcwidnesbranch@hotmail.co.uk

Haughton Green

03 Mike Fagg will be 18 on 7th March. Happy birthday, Mike. Best wishes from all your friends at HGSC.

04 Karen Shann will be celebrating her 50th birthday on 8th March. She is seen here with husband Colin in Munich earlier this season. Love and best wishes on your birthday Karen from all your family and friends.


03



04

Any branches wanting articles or photos including on the Official Supporters Club page please send them to PRO Mike Young via Kevin Parker.


05

Reddish

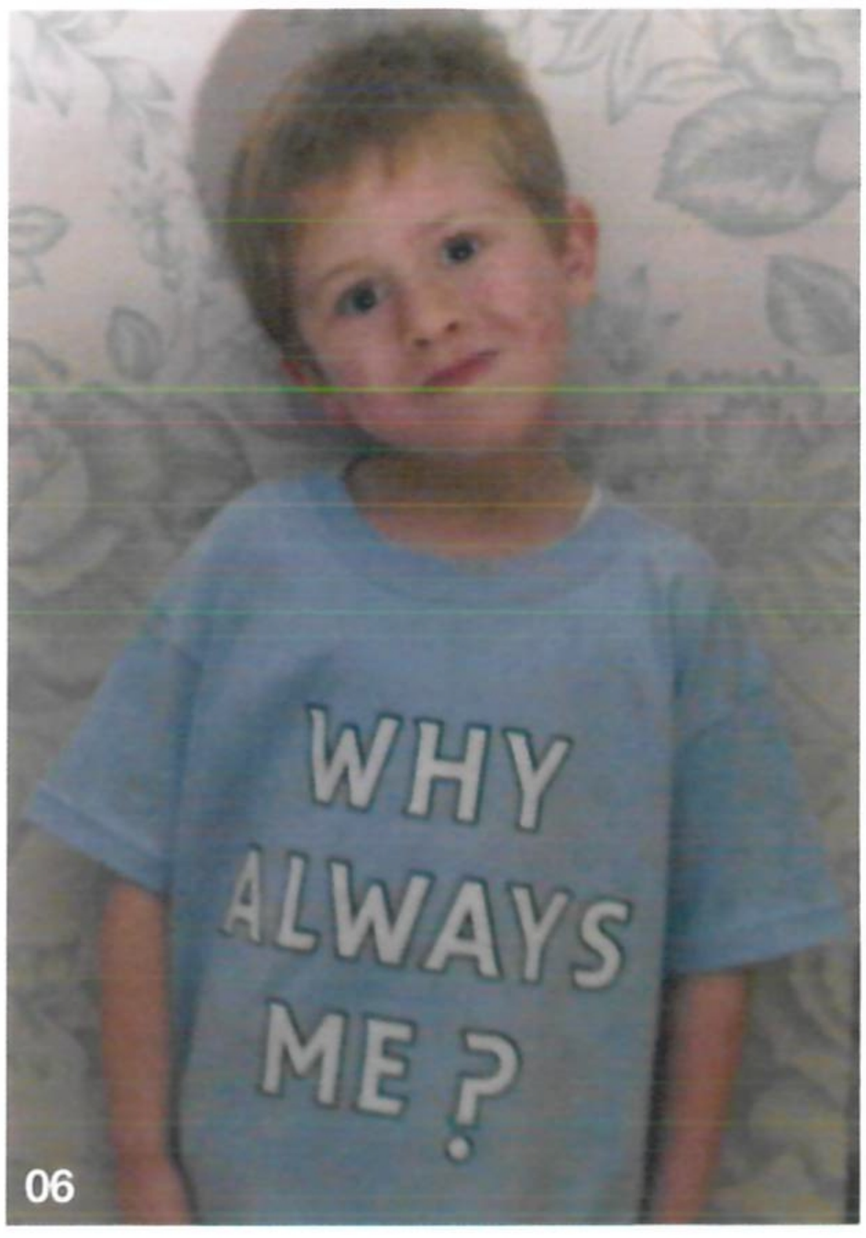
05 Happy birthday to Reddish Junior Blue Jasmine Green who is five today. The message is: "Have a great birthday – all our love from mum Jackie, dad Mickey and everyone at Reddish Blues."

Supporters Club Branches

A34 Winchester, Ancoats & Miles Platting, Ashton Under Lyne, Audenshaw, Baguley & Brooklands, Ballymena, Bangkok, Barrow & District, Bath & Wiltshire, Belfast, Billy McNeil Renfrewshire, Blackpool & Fylde, Bolton, Brantwood, Bredbury, Brisbane, Brooks Bar, Cambridge, Cape Town, Carlisle & District, Castleton & Rochdale, Catterick & Darlington, Cheadle, Chester & District, Chesterfield, Chorley, Coleraine, Cookstown, Cork, Costa Blanca, Costa del Sol, County Carlow, County Wicklow, Cyprus, Denton, Didsbury, Donegal, Dublin, Dukinfield, Dundalk, East Lancs, East Midlands, East Yorkshire, Eccles & District, Essex Blues, Failsworth, Galway, Gauteng Blues (Johannesburg), Gelsenkirchen, Ghana, Gilford, Gloucester & Cheltenham, Guernsey, Halifax & District, Haughton Green, Hazel Grove, Hellenic Citizens (Greece), Heywood, High Peak, Higher Openshaw, Hong Kong, Irlam & Cadishead, Isle of Man, Isle of Wight, Jersey, Kent, Kings Lynn, Knutsford, Leicester & Rugby, Limerick, Lincoln, Lisburn (Northern Ireland), London, M40 Blues, Malta (Cactus Bar), Manchester City Centre, Mansfield, Merseyside, Mid Sussex, Middleton, Morecambe Bay, Mossley, Nantwich, North Bury, North Derbyshire, North East England, North East Scotland, Northenden, Perth (Western Australia), Phuket, Piccadilly, Portadown, Poynton, Prestwich & Whitefield, Reddish, Redondo Beach Blues (Los Angeles), Rusholme & Moss Side, San Francisco, Scandinavia, Sierra Leone, South Yorkshire, Southport & West Lancs, Stretford & Urmston, Sussex, Sweden, Swinton, Thames Valley, Torino (Italian Blue Moon), Warrington, Waterford, West Yorkshire, Wexford, Widnes, Woodhouses, Woodside, Wythenshawe, Yeovil.

Belated birthday wishes

06 ...to Elliot Mills who was six on 22nd February. "Lots of love from mum, dad, Josh and Molly."



06



07

North Bury Blues

07 Happy fifth birthday for today to Isaac Moore, who regularly sits in the Colin Bell Stand with his dad Andy and mum Kerry, both long-time season ticket holders. Isaac has only seen City lose once during his visits in the last three years. His favourite player is Edin Dzeko and he plays football himself at Walshaw FC.

Birthday wishes from mum, dad and brother Lucas.

Supporters Club Charity

To donate to this season's chosen charity Action Duchenne text the words ACTION CITY to 70003 to donate £3 and show your support in making hope a reality for everybody living with Duchenne.

(Texts cost £3 plus network charge. Action Duchenne receives 100 per cent of your donation. Please obtain the bill-payers permission before sending the text. Customer care number 08448 479800. Charity number 1101971).

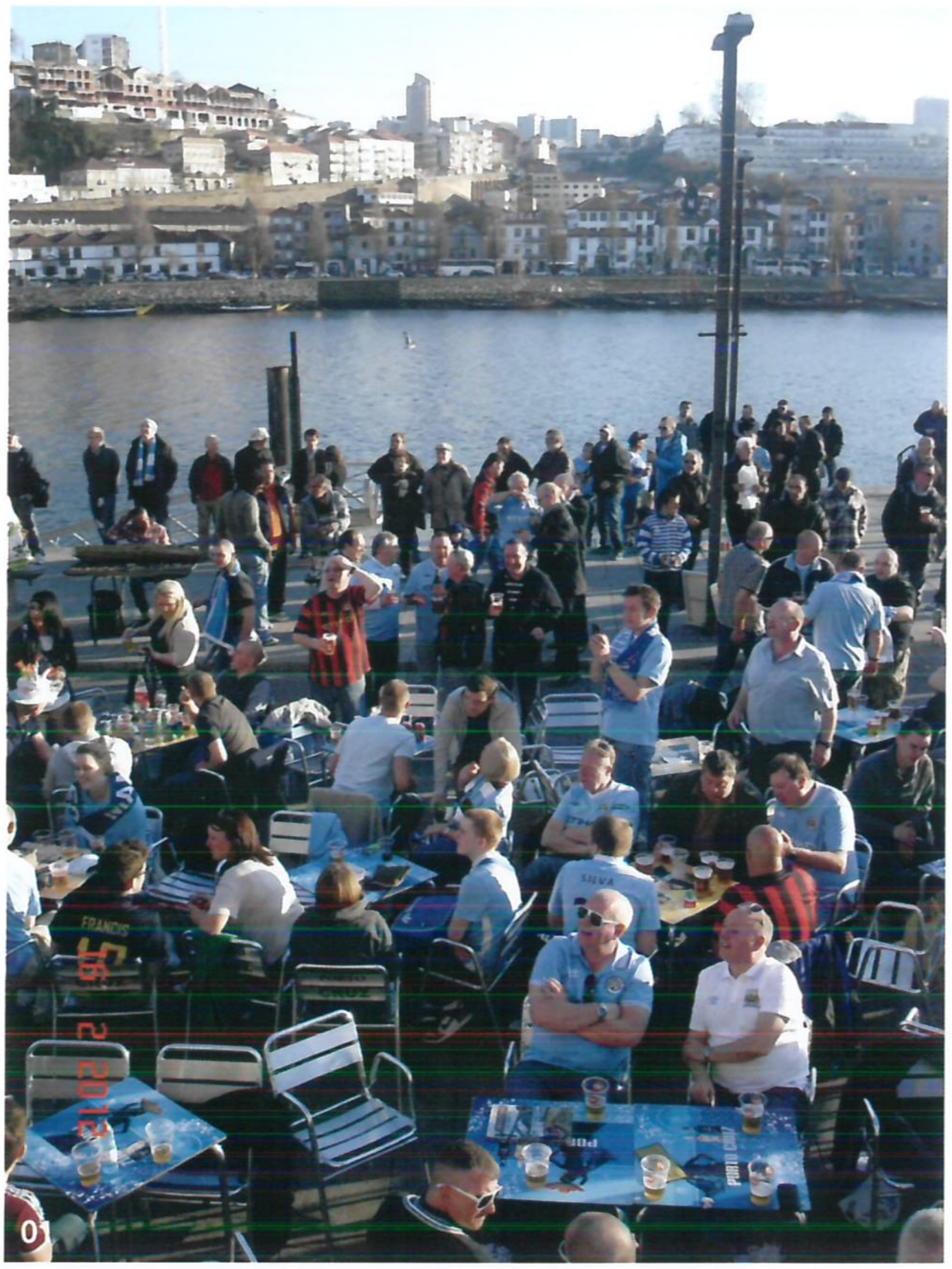
Blues Away

Portugal

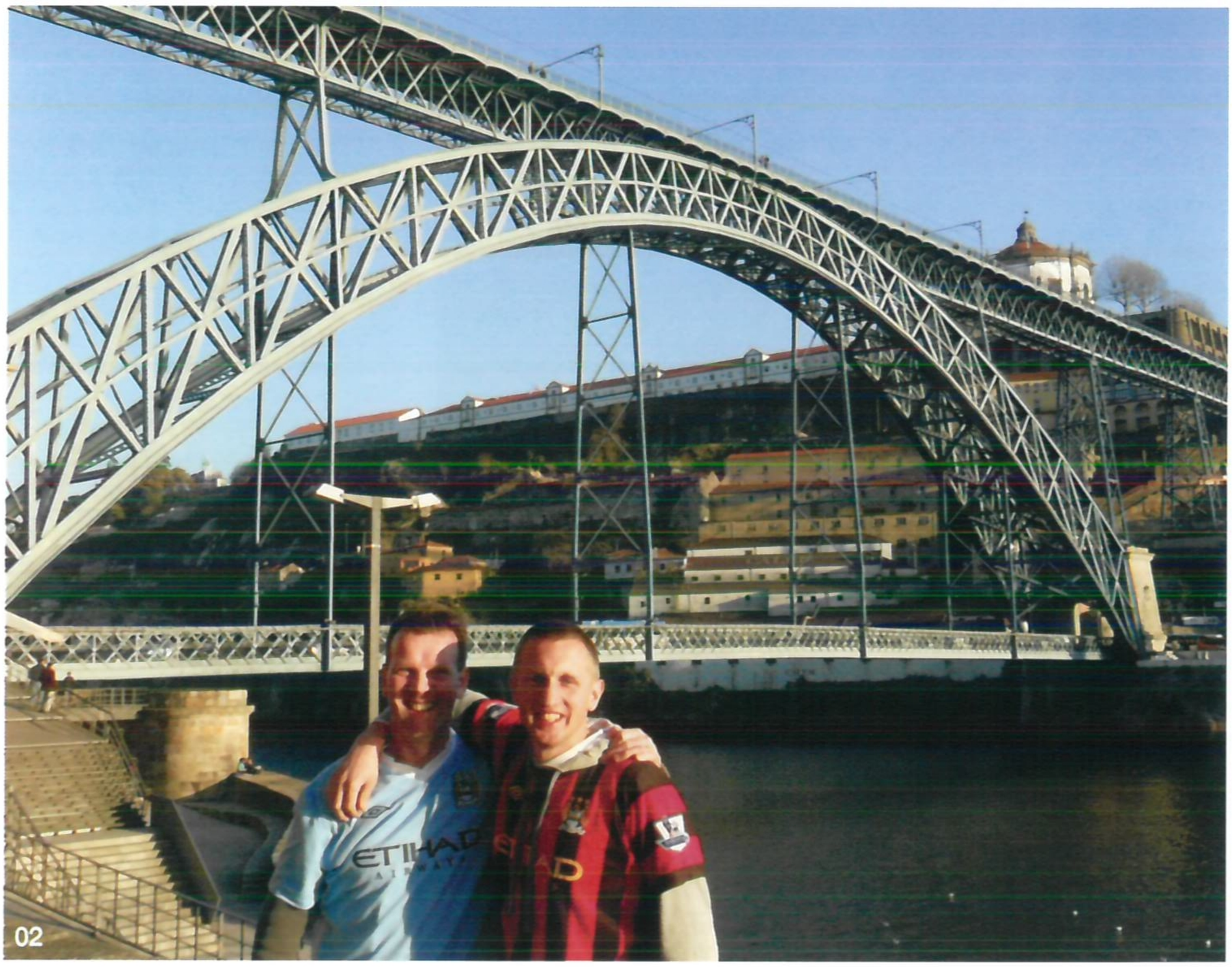
Two more from the recent Europa League trip to Porto...

01 First up is one from our current Blue Blogger **Simon Curtis** of *Down The Kippax Steps* fame (see page 45). It's the view looking out from the Quai de Ribeira where City fans gathered to enjoy an afternoon in the sun.

02 To the left was the Ponte Luis I, a metal arch bridge spanning the Douro River between Porto and Vila Nova de Gaia. Seasoncard holders **Paul Stanton** and **Gary Field** are the two Blues pictured in front of it.



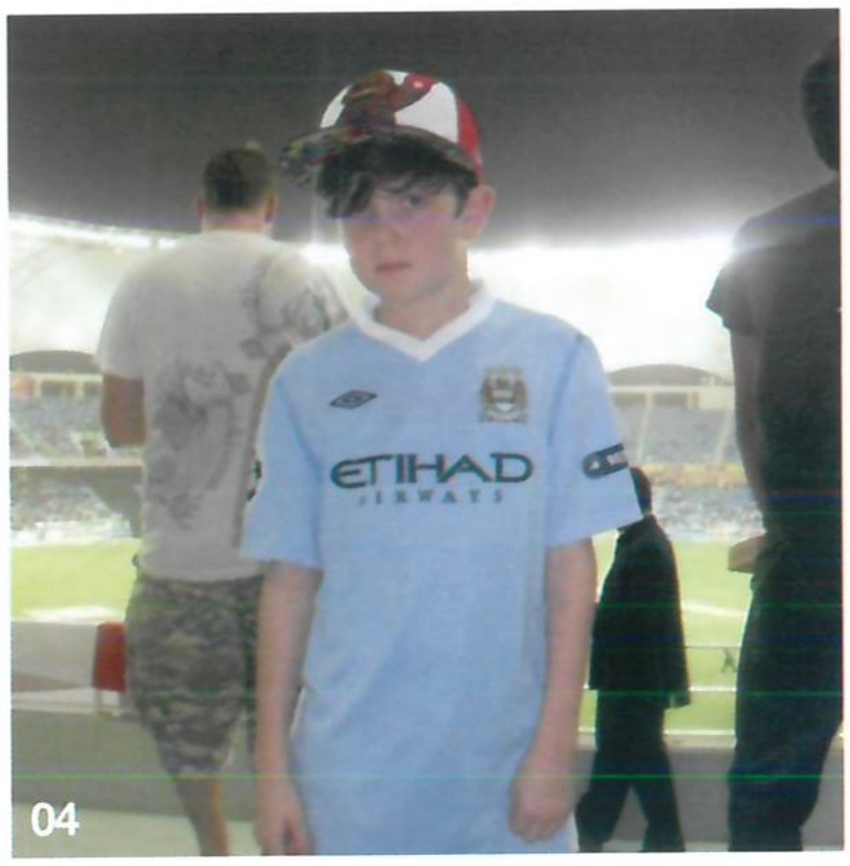
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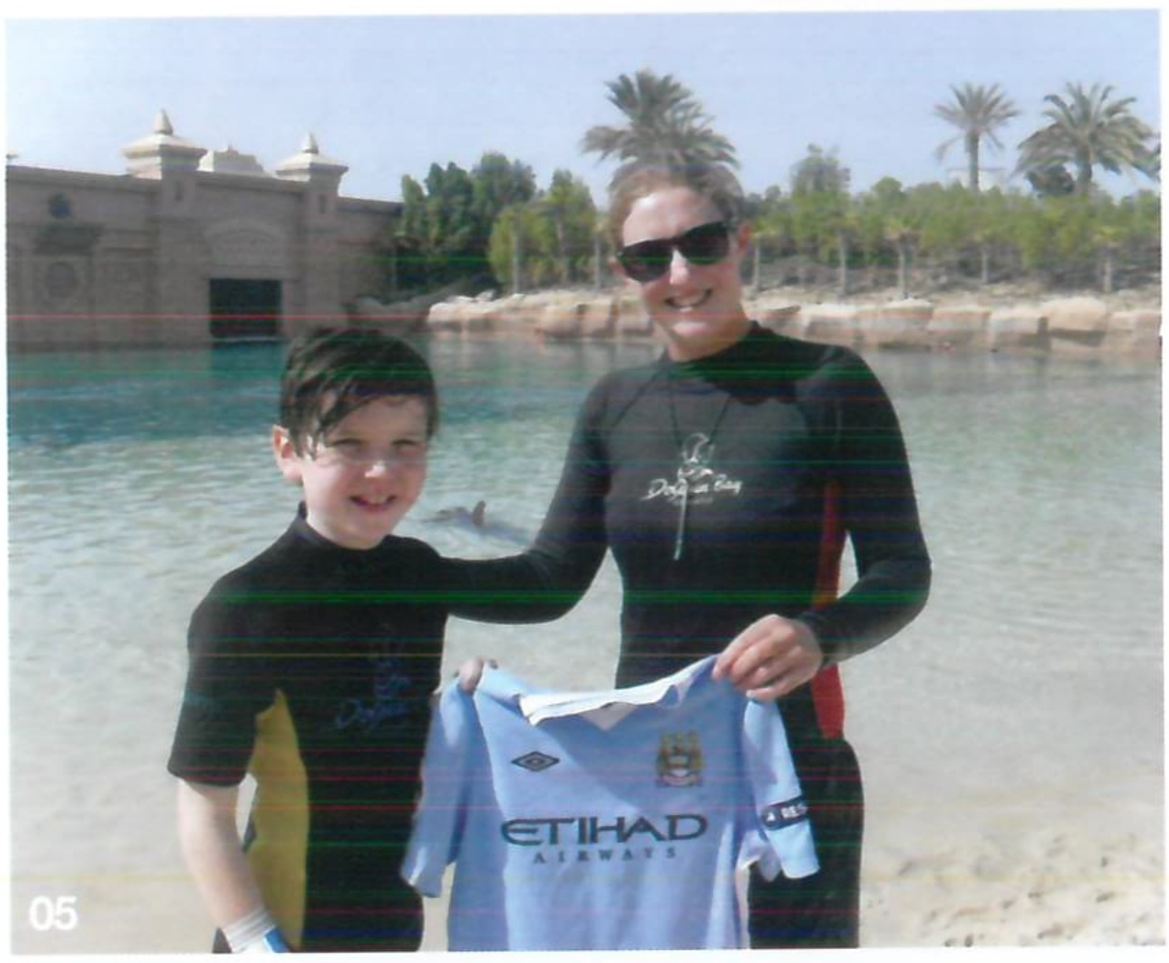


02

Wherever you go in the world, pack your City shirts and flags and email your photos and stories to **mcfcprog@aol.com**


03


04


05

Dubai

03-05 Without a City game to go to **John Clark** and his son **Connor** spent the FA Cup weekend at the cricket in Dubai watching England play Pakistan. Connor is pictured at the stadium and with dolphin trainer Britt at the Atlantis Water Park.

Tenerife

06 07 And finally another group of City fans who went off in search of the sun are pictured relaxing in Tenerife over Christmas. The couple in wigs are **Sue** and **Jimmy** from Blackley.


07



06

BBC Radio Manchester's
Ian Cheeseman

This is my third year supporting the BBC Sport Relief charity, which City are also right behind with Shoot for the Moon. I'm sure you've seen that the Sunderland game is City's "Giving Game" and there are loads of associated activities surrounding that event.

My more humble contribution is to undertake a series of modest "Cheesey's Challenges" at various sport events, which started with a launch at the Bolton Wanderers Junior Whites and continued with my attempt at the Crossbar Challenge at half-time last week against Blackburn Rovers.

I was a whisker away from hitting the bar and was honoured by the applause from the fans. I've not really been on the pitch since my days as stadium announcer at Maine Road and the day I missed two penalties at half-time in the Paul Lake testimonial!

During the next few weeks you can expect me to pop up anywhere and everywhere, including a stint in goal for Manchester Phoenix (ice hockey), shooting hoops at Northern Thunder (netball), kicking goals at Sale Sharks and Salford City Reds (rugby union and rugby league) – plus any other sporting challenges I can fit in.

In previous years I've run 30 miles around BBC Radio Manchester's four Premier League grounds and cycled 90 miles around all nine football clubs we cover, this year should be less strenuous, but I'm hoping to inspire you to run the Sport Relief mile on Sunday 25th March. I'm hosting the Manchester run (you can extend your distance to three or even six miles if you wish) along with Neda Druzic from Blue Tuesday and two more of my Radio Manchester colleagues Ruth and Liam.

I'm also planning to run myself, so if you fancy jogging along with me, just enter online at **www.sportrelief.com** and then email me **ian.cheeseman@bbc.co.uk** and we can arrange to run together.

On the field, I suspect Bolton will provide much stiffer opposition this afternoon than Blackburn did last week, indeed I predict that Wanderers will beat the drop. It seems to me that they are in a false position, so City will have to be at their best to secure the three points they need to maintain top spot in the title race.

Jimmy Wagg will be hosting Manchester Sports today, with Alan Gowling joining Nigel Gleghorn as our experts and my mate Jack Dearden sharing the commentary with me. You can join us on the post-match phone-in by calling 0161 228 2255.

Then it's off to Portugal again for me next week, I'll provide the usual comprehensive coverage of the trip with news and commentary during my time there.

As the late, great referee Neil Midgley used to say: "See you on the far post"!

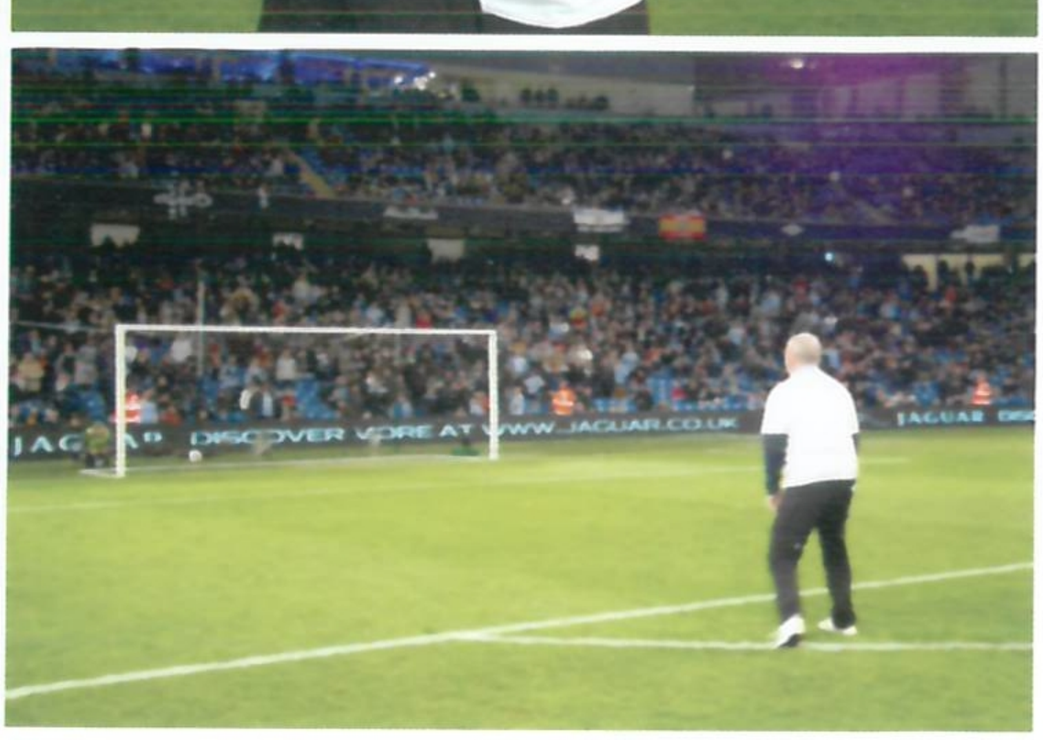
Ian Cheeseman
Producer, presenter, commentator, BBC Radio Manchester

95.1FM, DAB and bbc.co.uk/manchester









Left: The launch of "Cheesey's Challenges" for Sport Relief at Bolton's Junior Whites with Kevin Davies, Chung Yong Lee and the young Wanderers fans.

My half-time Crossbar Challenge at City versus Blackburn.



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Idris Elba, actor and musician

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BARCLAYS
Spaces for Sports

This week: Simon Curtis of **Down The Kippax Steps**
http://downthekippaxsteps.blogspot.com/

Blue Blogger



No more of your tripe

Two contrasting sides to the Portuguese came to light during the two-legged tie with Porto that should help prepare us nicely for our next opponents in the Europa League.

We had planted ourselves on the Quai de Ribeira, Porto's charming riverfront terrace, which served as a spot to relax, meet faces old and new, sing a few songs and sample the local specialities (apart from the tripe, of course. Keep the tripe well away from here).

While the sun shone on us all day long, little port barges puttered along the river with their precious cargo and inquisitive locals came to sit and exchange pleasantries. We can all lay claim to having watched City in some bizarre places, but seldom can there have been such a perfect spot to prepare for a big game.

The locals were fully understanding of a need among some of our brethren to remove tin trays from the bars and borrow spoons to whack them with. How else would the David Silva song work in such an acoustically challenging place? They were helpful when some of our contingent misunderstood the local laws on underground travel ("No, really, you need a ticket to get to the ground. No, I'm not joking and neither is my big new friend PC Pedro!") and they nodded understandingly when we decided it was easily warm enough to eat ice cream with our red wine. All in all, they seemed a very understanding lot, as our visitors today will no doubt have found in north-eastern Portugal in 2005 when they felt the urge to drape their BWFC flags all over the historical monuments of central Guimarães.

But, as often is the case, there was a flip side to all of this. It had all been going so very well. We had partied, seen the Blues fight back for a memorable and treasured win, doused ourselves in the local culture (well, a bit of it, anyway) and come away from it all not only unscathed but feeling pretty chipper.

Then somebody decided they wanted a different angle for the morning's papers. And so a different story emerged, of racist chanting and terrible noises emanating from the depth of the Superdragões. Porto defended themselves by saying the fans were eulogising Hulk, despite the fact the offending "chant" appeared only to hit the airwaves when either Balotelli or Yaya were in possession of the ball. Porto seemed to adopt the famous "Ostrich Position" and hold it without breathing out for a very long time.

So when during the second leg City fans decided, instead of running through the old playlist about Blue Moons and Invisible Men, Joe Mercer's Aces and our favourite darts players, to tell Mr Hulk that he had done little to remind us of green monsters after all, a cunning plan took shape in the minds of the Porto board, one which – once it had been aired in the press – would require only a single word to describe it: *Incredible.*


Simon Curtis



Check out more great City fan sites and blogs at
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City on Facebook – **www.facebook.com/mcfcofficial**
City on Twitter – **www.twitter.com/mcfc**

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City's record attendance of 84,569 was for an FA Cup game versus Stoke at Maine Road 88 years ago today!

Light Blue

ON THIS DAY

Ten years ago today, 3rd March 2002, Jihai Sun made his City debut as a 76th minute sub for Stuart Pearce in a 4-2 home win over Coventry. He is still the only Chinese player to appear in the Blues' first team.



150 FOR JOE

Joe Hart played his 150th Premier League game last weekend and kept a clean sheet for the 54th time in that career. Of those shut-outs, 44 have been in 114 games for City and the other 10 came in his 36 appearances for Birmingham City.

WANDERING STARS

Identify five players who have appeared for both City and Bolton by these clues...

1. Scored twice for City in this fixture in 2003-04 and twice for Bolton when they came here three years later.
2. Made his City debut as a sub versus Bolton in May 2009.
3. Became City chairman in 1994.
4. Joined City from Atletico Madrid in 2007.
5. City's Player of the Year in 1987 and 1989.

Answers below...

TEASER

Shaun Goater has been City's top league scorer on three occasions, but what was unusual about the three seasons in which he did so?

Answer below...

CITY SONS

Fill in the blanks to reveal five City players whose names end in SON.
Answers below...

1 _D__ ____SON

2 __N_ ___SON

3 ____A__ ___SON

4 _N__ _____SON

5 __R_ __SON

CHOOSE A CAPTION

What's Samir Nasri smiling about here? Email your suggestions to mcfcprog@aol.com



So what was Yakubu saying to Joleon Lescott in this picture from last week's programme? *"I told you the ball wouldn't come this far up the field"* – according to Paul Batty from Preston.

Answers: WANDERING STARS: 1. Nicolas Anelka; 2. Vladimir Weiss; 3. Francis Lee; 4. Martin Petrov; 5. Neil McNab. TEASER: They were in three different divisions. CITY SONS: 1. Adam Johnson; 2. Arni Arason; 3. Richard Jobson; 4. Andy Morrison; 5. Gary Mason.

Dig out your long-lost treasures and share a City memory…

Treasure Trove

Send us a photo or a scan of your cherished clutter – anything with a memory or a story attached. Our email address is mcfcprog@aol.com. Please also include a daytime telephone number.

Thanks go out to Malcolm Hough of New Mills for sharing with us all this beautiful item of Art Deco memorabilia, an original artwork dating back to the 1920s – specifically to the Wembley FA Cup final of 1926, when City lined up against today's oppo, Bolton Wanderers.



"It's a souvenir postcard produced by London Transport," says Malc, "based on an Underground poster publicising the final back in the day."

And thanks also to Dave Wallace, editor of the long-running *King of the Kippax* fanzine, who also sent in some '20s treasure, below.

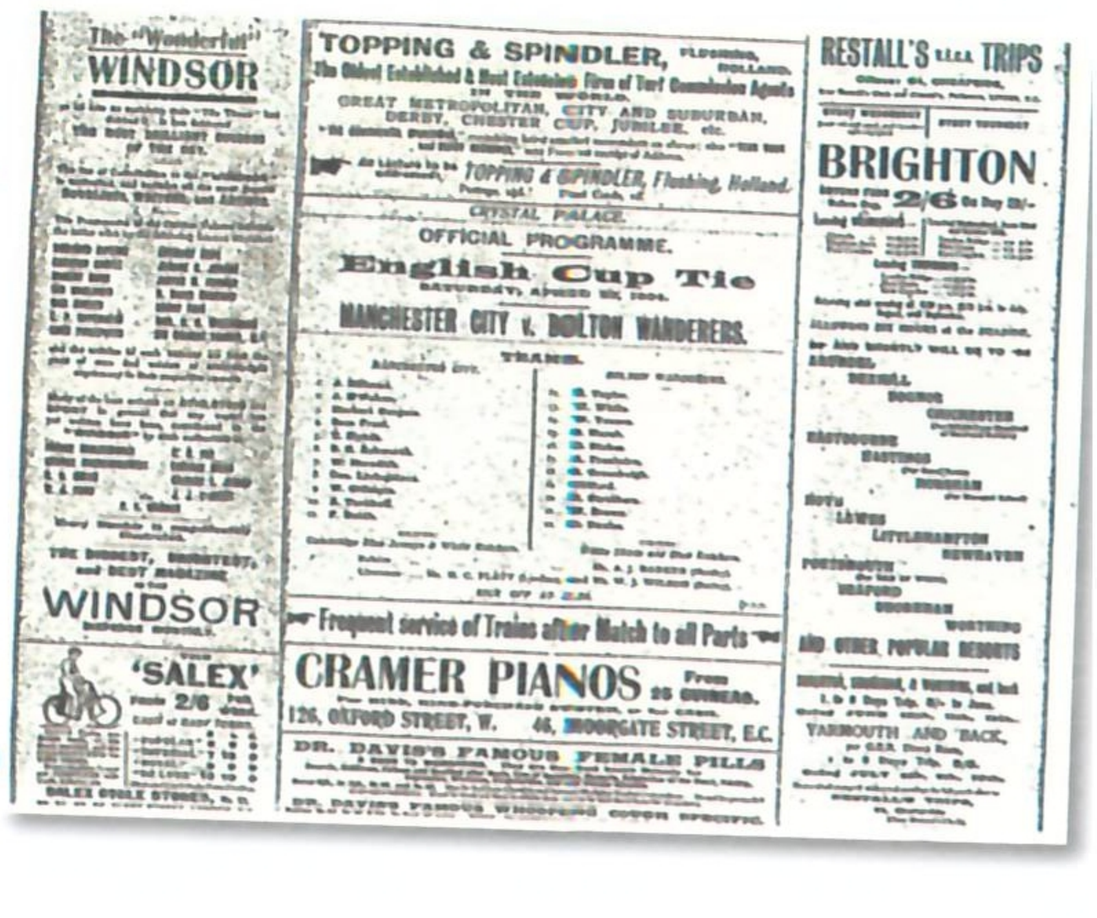
"It's on linen and is undated," he says, "but it just goes to prove that Denis Law wasn't the first to raise his arm (or maybe two) on scoring a goal!"



Known as "cigarette silks", these pieces of cloth were a variation on the cigarette card, printed or woven with pictures of flags, film stars or, in this case, City's club colours. This one was given away with Godfrey Phillips' BDV cigarettes in 1920. Choosing a side view to illustrate a kit was an unusual choice: the artist either couldn't draw faces or didn't want it to be of an identifiable player. Thankfully the left arm is just visible to make it a goal celebration rather than a salute!

We'll be following up in a future issue on Dave's forthcoming book. *Us And Them* is an irresistible-sounding collection of fans' tales from City matches from 1892/93 to date, including ground diagrams, pictures, caricatures, cartoons and much more.

As a final City-Bolton companion piece, here's a programme from the previous time the two sides met in the cup final back in 1904, this time at Crystal Palace. Just in case your granddad's got a copy tucked away at the back of a kitchen drawer... it's now worth around £25,000!





Card School

No. 371 **1923 Team group**

A vintage Pattreiouex cigarette card issued by the Manchester company around 1922-23. This informal team group was shot during a lull in training at the old Hyde Road ground, the very year the club relocated to Maine Road.



No. 372 **1963 Team group**

Forty years on, you could collect up 12 black-and-white team cards cut from the side of Typhoo Tea packets, and send off for one of these whopping 10" x 8" colour photo cards, "suitable for framing"...

Cash in Their Attic

Trotters memorabilia, collectables and antiques of the future…

Up for sale at online auction billed as UNIQUE PRESENTATION TANKARD RICHARD 'DICKIE' PYM BOLTON 1923 FA CUP FINAL, here's a unique item of Trotters memorabilia – a tankard presented in 1973 by the PFA (Professional Footballers Association) to the goalie in the first Wembley cup final.

Pym was a regular star of the boys' comics of the day, and went on to claim three FA Cup winners' medals with Bolton in the 1920s. When he died in September 1988 he was aged 95, and holds the record for the longest-lived English international footballer.





Yours for £1,250.



Looking back at 1926 FA Cup finalists. Three John Player cigarette cards, including caricatures of Bolton's above-mentioned £5,000 world-record signing goalie R H Pym (aka "Dick", "Dickie" or "Pincher"), and left-winger Ted Vizard who made 512 club appearances over 19 years. From the *Footballers 1928* series, David Jack was soon to become Arsenal's £10,000 world-record signing.

On Our Side.

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98|99

The 2011-12 season is the 20th since the formation of the FA Premier League in 1992. Since that time the Blues have found both major success and, well, let's be honest... suffered some serious setbacks. To mark this landmark City author Gary James takes a look back at the highs and lows of the 19 seasons so far. Each season has played its part in creating the City we have today. Today, 1998-99.

The Blues had been relegated at the end of the 1997-98 season in 22nd place of the old First Division (the second tier). This meant that wherever City ended 1998-99 it would mark the lowest position the club had ever finished a season.

League overview

Due to City's stature in the game the media rated them clear favourites for the Second Division title. They believed that no matter what problems had been experienced in recent seasons the Blues would storm through the third tier.

Supporters were uneasy, however. Promotion may have been a formality as far as the media were concerned but for City fans it was hoped for – even demanded – but not expected. They knew that, despite the best efforts of manager Joe Royle, City were still in a downward spiral. Nevertheless, there was a perverse excitement about the new season.

A crowd of 32,134 squeezed into Maine Road for the Blackpool clash on the opening day. The club and fans treated it like a Premier League match. The usual razzmatazz was there, and it would have been easy to believe this was not the third level of English football. The match ended 3-0 to City and it was an impressive performance at times, particularly from young debutants Gary Mason and Nicky Weaver, but there were also a few worrying signs. Despite the goals City did miss quite a few clear chances and the general feeling was of relief.

Manager

Joe Royle, who arrived in February 1998. Another former City star Willie Donachie was his head coach.

"Dicky... Wonderful character. His heart is jammed in that little body it's so big. I'd been on at him from day one to side-foot everything because he used to slash at everything. So at Wembley he got this half chance and side-footed it and that's it 2-2"

– Joe Royle talking about Paul Dickov



98 99



Unfortunately it didn't last and a Kit Symons-inspired Fulham defeated the Blues 3-0 on 14th August. Then Brian Flynn's Wrexham frustrated City in a goalless match at Maine Road eight days later. City dropped to 14th place following their next match – a controversial 1-1 draw at Notts County which saw Shaun Goater net in the final minute. It was the lowest league position of the club's history and was the result of a couple of refereeing decisions that upset the City management. Firstly, a highly debatable penalty had been awarded to County for alleged handling by Kevin Horlock, then Jamie Pollock was dismissed for dissent.

After County the Blues defeated Walsall 3-1, and then six days later Mel Machin's impressive Bournemouth side were beaten 2-1 at Maine Road with goals from Danny Allsopp (in the 25th minute) and Paul Dickov (64). Apart from a victory over Macclesfield which saw Goater score the only goal four minutes from time, the following matches brought a little pain as the Blues drew four and lost 1-0 to promotion hopefuls Preston on 12th October.

A solitary goal from Goater brought three points at Wigan five days later but an awful 2-1 defeat at Lincoln and a 1-0 loss at home to Reading on 24th October left the Blues floundering. Joe Royle later looked back on this moment and admitted: "We were muddling around mid-table, finding it very hard. We were the team to beat, and we knew that clubs with very small gates were bringing 3,000 to Maine Road. They were making a weekend of it. But we were finding it tough. We needed a leader and that leader was Andy Morrison. His arrival was a seminal moment in the transformation of Manchester City.

"I knew of Andy and Les Chapman had heard that he was available. We got him for about 30 grand. He came in... scored on his debut... wrote someone off in a tackle that turned out to be one of his best mates, and a cult hero was born. City love a cult hero and he was it. He was also a quality player. People forget this, but I believe he should have played for Scotland. He was certainly talented enough."

Morrison made his debut on 31st October at home to Colchester and, as Royle suggested, his presence was felt immediately with a goal in a 2-1 victory. He scored again in the next match as the Blues won 3-0 at Royle's former club Oldham Athletic.

The Oldham victory lifted City to fifth and thoughts of promotion returned, but the side was still not quite functioning. Three points from the next four games made the situation look grim especially when the Blues were defeated 2-1 at York on 19th December. The Blues dropped to 12th. For many this was the lowest moment.

Worried City fans travelled to Wrexham on Boxing Day fearing the worst, but a 56th-minute goal from Gerard Wiekens brought victory and hope returned. At home to Stoke two days later the Blues went behind in the 31st minute, but a resurgent City managed to pull a goal back through Dickov two minutes into the second half and then Gareth Taylor scored the winner five minutes from time. The fightback had begun.

Above: Kevin Horlock in action in the opening day win over Blackpool.

Below: Key signing Andy Morrison.

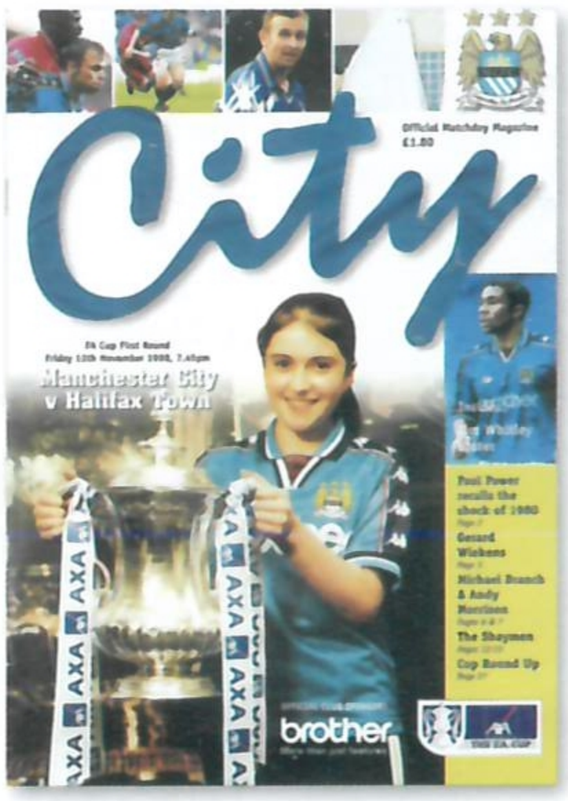
Bottom: City fans packed out Macclesfield's Moss Rose ground.



Tickets

Adult prices ranged from £10 (North Stand) to £16 in Main Stand blocks B & C for category A games and £12 to £18 for category C fixtures. Junior tickets cost £7 in the North Stand and £6 for the Family Stand and North Stand blocks K and L. Senior Citizen tickets ranged from £5 to £7.





Official programme

Regular pages: 48
Price: £1.80

Below: Shaun Goater celebrating his last-gasp equaliser at Notts County.

Including the two Christmas games, Royle's side managed to remain unbeaten for 12 consecutive league games and by early March were sixth in the table.

In the middle of that run came a bizarre game at Bournemouth. The match ended goalless but the referee sent off two City men – Jamie Pollock and Kevin Horlock. Pollock's third dismissal of the season came about 11 minutes from the end when he performed a rather innocuous looking tackle. It was a little late, but it certainly did not appear to be a deliberate foul, and clearly did not warrant a second yellow card.

The Horlock dismissal was equally frustrating. In the dying seconds of the match he approached referee Brian Coddington to tell him Nicky Weaver had been clattered by a Bournemouth man. That challenge looked considerably more dangerous than the Pollock incident and yet nothing happened. As Horlock approached Coddington, the official waved him away. Then he produced a red card.

DEBUTS

There were debuts for Nicky Weaver, Gary Mason, Danny Allsopp, Nick Fenton, Danny Tiatto, Andy Morrison, Gareth Taylor, Steve Rimmer, Alan Bailey, Terry Cooke, Mark Robins and Michael Branch. Former hero Ian Bishop also returned, making his first appearance as substitute at Colchester on 31st October.



Afterwards a baffled Royle searched for answers: "The referee said Kevin was walking towards him in an aggressive manner. He admitted that there was no swearing, Kevin just wanted to speak with him. And here was me thinking it was good to talk."

A 2-1 setback at Oldham on 13th March was followed by a nine-game unbeaten run, taking City to third place and to the fringes of an automatic promotion spot. Ultimately, a 4-0 thrashing of York on the last day of the season guaranteed third place and a Play-Off semi-final with Wigan.

The first leg was the last competitive match at Springfield Park. The game started dreadfully as in the first 20 seconds Stuart Barlow rushed in between Wiekens and Weaver to score what seemed a very simple goal.

Fortunately, Royle's City no longer buckled in these situations and the Blues dominated the rest of the match. City attacked and attacked, and after 77 minutes the breakthrough came. Michael Brown made the goal with a good run down the right. He crossed to Paul Dickov, and City's powerful dynamo swept home a thoroughly deserved equaliser. The match ended 1-1 and the Blues felt satisfied.

Four days later Shaun Goater scored a 27th minute winner in the second leg to send the Blues to Wembley for the first time since 1986. Their opponents would be Gillingham.

Kitted out

City retained the previous season's home kit for the second of two years with Kappa. A new and daring away strip was introduced though – fluorescent yellow and navy stripes a with flashes of light blue. This kit will always hold fond memories for City fans as it worn on that unforgettable afternoon at Wembley in May 1999. It would be the last to feature the logo of Brother after 12 years of sponsorship.

Illustrations by John Devlin www.truecoloursfootballkits.com



98
99

Wembley

The 1999 Play-Off final was played with City the clear the favourites. According to the media Gillingham were going to be swept aside by Royle's men. In the end it became one of the most tortuous, and at the same time joyous, occasions ever experienced by Blues.

When the match commenced City were not the great force the media expected, instead they slipped their way across a wet surface and relied on the 20-year-old Nicky Weaver to keep Gillingham at bay, particularly in the ninth minute when he palmed away an effort from Mick Galloway. As the game wore on, confidence grew and in the 26th minute a downward header from Horlock was superbly saved by Gillingham's keeper Vince Bartram.

Mixed play followed, although it's fair to say that City had the better chances and should have taken the lead, especially in the 75th minute when Goater side-footed a shot against the post. But, as the game progressed, City fans became nervous.

With only nine minutes remaining the Blues were dealt a major blow when Carl Asaba toe-poked a shot into the roof of City's net. There was a feeling of huge disappointment in the stands, but worse was to follow as Robert Taylor made it 2-0 in the 86th minute. Two thirds of the stadium fell silent, then many, many Blues decided enough was enough and left for home.

Joe Royle felt all was lost: "I turned to Willie and said, 'It looks like Scunny next year' because I'd seen them get promoted the day before. Then Kevin Horlock rifled one in... another strong character for us that year. He grew as the season went on."



Horlock's goal came a mere 17 seconds from the end of normal time. It prompted those in the stands to start to believe that an equaliser could be possible. Royle: "The board came up for five minutes and Asa Hartford popped up alongside me urging the players on. 'Five minutes, come on'. I looked at Gillingham's bench and they were all downbeat, 'What five minutes?' City fans started to roar – and some came back into the stadium after leaving."

Four and a half minutes into injury time Paul Dickov fired an equaliser into the top corner. For a few seconds the stadium fell silent as City supporters struggled to comprehend the importance of the goal, and then wild celebrations erupted all over Wembley. Royle loved what Dickov had achieved: "Dicky... wonderful character. His heart is jammed in that little body it's

Above right: Paul Dickov on the attack at Wembley.

Below: Nicky Weaver's celebration run after his heroic performance in the penalty shoot-out against Gillingham.



Crowds

The highest home league attendance was 32,471 (1,508 away fans) for the visit of York City on 8th May. This was also the highest for the division.

The lowest was 24,291 v Walsall (1,246 away fans) in September.

The highest away attendance was 20,857 at Preston on 5th April (including 5,942 City fans), although the highest attendance City played in front of was 76,935 for the Play-Off final at Wembley.

Eighteen of the division's 23 other clubs had their highest crowds for the visit of City. The largest travelling City support was for the Wimbledon FA Cup tie when 6,312 travelled to London.

SADLY...

Ashton-under-Lyne born Jimmy Constantine, who won a Second Division Championship medal in 1947 with City, died on 4th September 1998. 1956 FA Cup-winning goalscorer Joe Hayes passed away in 1999 at the age of 63. And 1970 League Cup final winner Arthur Mann died on 3rd February 1999 – he was only 51.

Appearances

No player appeared in all 46 league games, although Nicky Weaver appeared in 45 of them – only missing the 1-1 draw with Chesterfield in September. Weaver managed to keep 22 clean sheets this season, equalling Joe Corrigan's 1976-77 record from 42 games.

Goalscorers

Top scorer was Shaun Goater with 17 league goals – not bad for a player who had been criticised that season by some for what they believed was a poor goals-to-game ratio! Next highest was Paul Dickov with 10.

so big. I'd been on at him from day one to side-foot everything because he used to slash at everything. So at Wembley he got this half chance and side-footed it and that's it 2-2. Typical City we're then into extra-time and Gillingham's main striker was off the pitch, but we couldn't score. Goater hit the post... (Tony) Vaughan rolled one across the area... and we had to face penalties."

For the penalties the City players huddled together as a team, showing the unity that previous sides had clearly not enjoyed. This unity helped the Blues win the penalty shoot-out 3-1, but the score said nothing about the drama, the excitement, and the immense feeling of relief experienced at the time. Horlock, Terry Cooke, and Richard Edghill netted for City, but the hero was without a doubt Weaver who saved Gillingham's fourth attempt. The young keeper immediately went on a rather manic run across Wembley, until he was dragged back to reality by Morrison and the other players.

Wild celebrations followed, with the players bowing to the supporters to show their appreciation of sticking by the club through an extremely difficult period.

In the cups

In the League Cup City defeated Notts County 2-0 (away) and 7-1 at Maine Road, then travelled to Premiership Derby County for the Second Round. Derby took the lead in the ninth minute, but the Blues seemed to control the match. Goater had a goal disallowed for offside in the 14th minute, but Danny Tiatto bicycle-kicked an equaliser 12 minutes later. Controversially referee Alan Wilkie sent Pollock off for an off-the-ball incident. The game ended 1-1. Derby won the second leg 1-0.



Right: Only 12 years ago "third' division City played Premier League Wimbledon in the FA Cup! Here Gareth Taylor jumps to win a header over future Blue Ben Thatcher.

HOMECOMING PARADE

Joe Royle: "It was quite muted really on the coach home from Wembley. I think we were still dazed. Then David Bernstein, the chairman, came up to me and he told me that the council had been in touch asking us if we wanted a homecoming parade. I said to David, 'An open-topped bus for getting out of this division? Are you serious?' And he said, 'I know' but I had to ask."

In the FA Cup City defeated Halifax Town 3-0 in the First Round. When asked about City's aims for the year Joe Royle joked: "I won't start getting excited until we are at the semi-final stage of the competition!"

Darlington were defeated 1-0 in a Second Round replay, and then the Blues were knocked out by Premiership Wimbledon (1-0), despite a valiant performance.

City also competed in the Auto Windscreen Shield on 8th December. Some areas of the media claimed this was a miserable night and proved that fans had turned their backs on the Blues making comparisons with a Champions League attendance at Old Trafford. However, this was far from fair. The attendance was 3,007, admittedly the lowest first-team crowd at Maine Road, but for a game in a competition that no one connected with the club wanted to be involved with. The game ended in a 2-1 defeat by Mansfield Town. Focus remained on the league – the only real aim for the Blues that year – and crowds flocked to see City in huge numbers.

At the season's end

City ended 1998-99 third in Division Two but were promoted via the Play-Offs The average home league attendance was 28,261 (up 0.02 per cent) – which was the 13th highest in entire Premier/Football League and some 15,529 higher than Stoke, the next best in the division.

Opponents

Bolton Wanderers ended the season sixth in the First Division (second tier) under manager Colin Todd, who taken over in January 1996. Their average attendance was 18,240 (down 25.1 per cent) and leading scorer Bob Taylor with 15 goals.

MANCHESTER THE CITY YEARS by GARY JAMES

Details of how to subscribe to Gary James' latest book **Manchester The City Years** *will be announced on Monday 5th March on* ***www.manchesterfootball.org***



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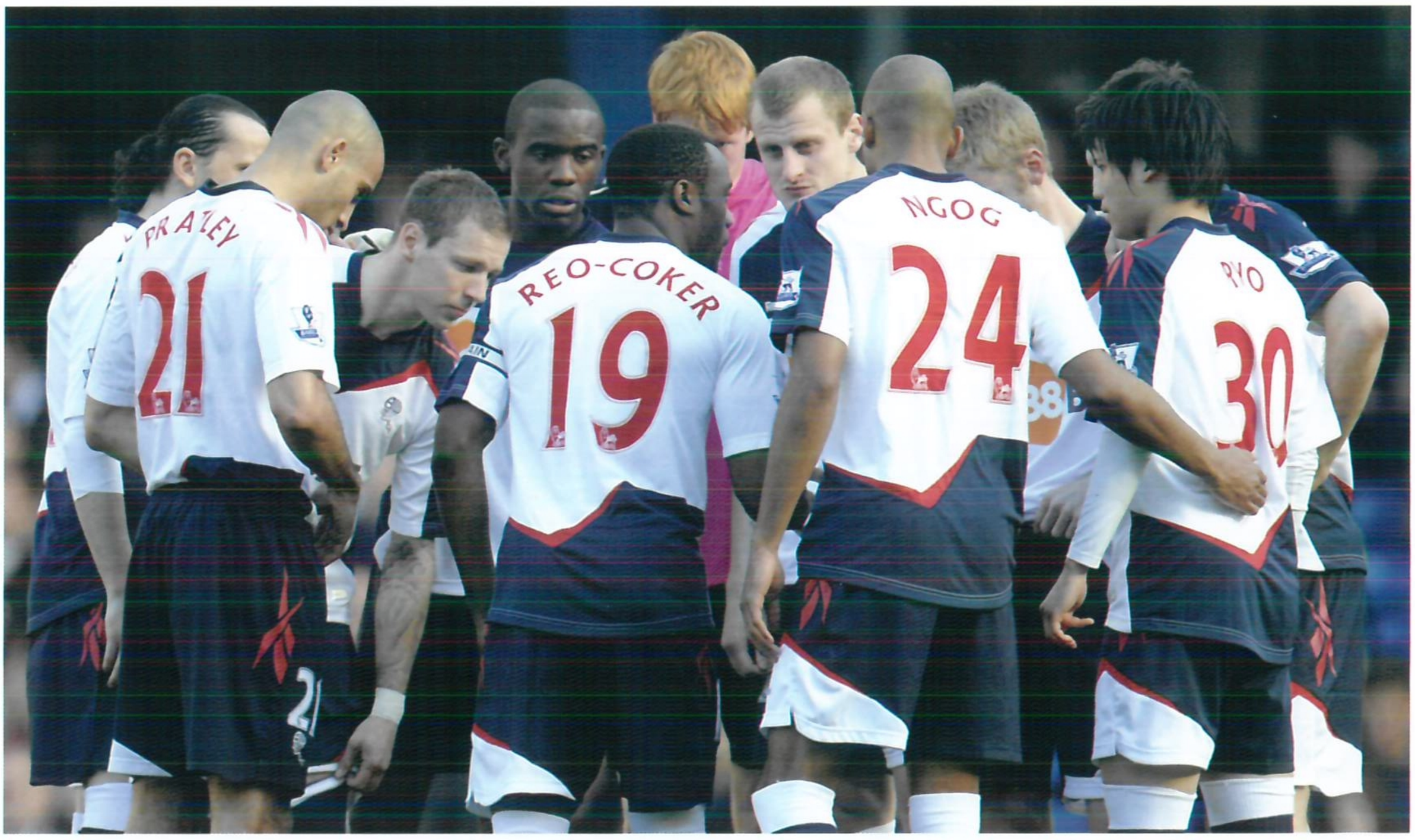
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Visiting the Etihad Stadium...

Bolton Wanderers



Today's Greater Manchester derby closes a sequence of home fixtures against a trio of clubs who were promoted together.

The promotion winners of 11 years ago were even required to come to the Etihad Stadium in the finishing order of 2001: Fulham, the champions, followed by Blackburn Rovers, the runners-up, and now Bolton, who overcame Preston in the Play-Off final.

Al three have enjoyed seasons in the top 10 – Bolton as high as sixth when they first went into Europe with Sam Allardyce as manager – but this year has brought perhaps the most concentrated threat to the trio's continuity in the Premier League.

While Fulham's recent results have lifted them into mid-table, their promotion partners from the North West have been in and around the bottom three throughout the season.

For Bolton it has been exasperation all the way, with every forward step followed with twice as many backwards.

After winning 4-0 at QPR on the opening day, a defeat by Manchester City was the first of six on the bounce and something similar happened later when they scored eight goals – three at Wigan, five at home to Stoke – and then lost five in a row.

FACT Owen Coyle won his first Manager of the Month award in the Premier League in November 2010 when Bolton were fourth after beating Newcastle 5-1.

Nigel Reo-Coker



Above: Darren Pratley

Right: Ryo Miyaichi

Below: Sam Ricketts

All this came as a surprise after the progress made under Owen Coyle. Having steered the club away from a relegation situation in 2010, the former Burnley boss positioned his team in the top eight for much of last season, and as high as sixth at Christmas.

Yet suddenly it all went wrong on "a terrible day" at Wembley when Wanderers crashed 5-0 to Stoke City in an FA Cup semi-final. "We'll all be hurting until the day we die," said a stunned manager.

The long run

The trauma of Wembley was where Bolton's troubles began. They have lost 23 of the 32 Premier League games played since 27,000 supporters followed them to London last April.

The running order of the fixture list may have been a contributory factor at the beginning of this season. By the end of September they had faced five of the top seven. The two Manchester teams and Chelsea scored 13 goals between them in visits to The Reebok.

The good thing is that the clubs in front of them have never pulled away. For 10 days at the end of January Bolton eased out of the relegation places after a totally dominant performance against Liverpool, and there was additional encouragement from reaching the last eight the FA Cup.

However, they were second-bottom again after what Owen Coyle called "a missed opportunity" in losing at home to Wigan. Yet even now survival is probably still in their hands.

Two points are covering five teams and three of these are on the fixture list in March – Wanderers play QPR (home), Blackburn (home) and Wolves (away). The other game this month offers a chance to pull Aston Vila closer to the danger area.



Injury problems

Unfortunately the case of Stuart Holden is only the tip of the iceberg when it comes to listing this season's injury problems.

The Scottish-born American international broke a leg against Holland two years ago, got back in time for the World Cup and was outstanding for Bolton last season until a knee injury last March led to surgery. His only appearance in almost 12 months was in a Carling Cup win at Aston Villa in September.

Elsewhere Bolton said farewell to Gavin McCann as the midfielder retired after a 16-month lay-off and former Spurs midfielder Sean Davis has played only four games in three seasons because of knee injuries before he was loaned to Bristol City last week.

Wales full-back Sam Ricketts was out for the last 10 months of 2011 with an Achilles tendon injury and pre-season delivered two more setbacks.

Chung-Yong Lee – the South Korean winger who was tipped for a "sensational season" by his manager – was immediately ruled out for nine months after a double fracture of his lower right leg in a match at Newport, and Tyrone Mears broke a leg during a training session.

The former Manchester City full-back had been at the club for only a week, having re-joined Coyle with another Burnley player, the former Manchester United midfielder Chris Eagles, who was in the Clarets' Play-Off final squad in 2009.

There was also an early-season lay-off for Marcos Alonso when the young Spanish defender suffered a metatarsal fracture in August. He was back in December but out again almost straightaway for surgery to replace a pin.



Memories of Europe

It's only four years since Bolton reached the last 16 in the UEFA Cup and yet the team has changed almost beyond recognition.

FACT Jussi Jaaskelainen was the goalkeeper in Bolton's last two FA Cup semi-finals – 11 years apart. In 2000 Wanderers lost to Aston Villa in a penalty shoot-out.

BARCLAYS PREMIER LEAGUE StatPack

MANAGERIAL RECORDS

Roberto Mancini

Played 85 **Won** 52 **Drawn** 16 **Lost** 17
For 167 **Against** 70
Av Pts/game 2.02
Biggest Win(s) **Won 6-1 on 2 occasions** Biggest Loss(es) **Man City 0 Arsenal 3 (24/10/2010).**

Owen Coyle

Played 84 **Won** 24 **Drawn** 15 **Lost** 45
For 97 **Against** 141
Av Pts/game 1.04
Biggest Win(s) **Bolton 5 Stoke 0 (06/11/2011).** Biggest Loss(es) **Bolton 0 Man Utd 5 (10/09/2011).**

MANAGER HEAD TO HEAD RECORD

Played 4	Roberto Mancini 4	Owen Coyle 0
Draws 0	Goals 8	Goals 2

Player with the most...		Player with the most...
shots		**shots**
Sergio Aguero 82		Chris Eagles 53
shots on target		**shots on target**
Sergio Aguero 45		Chris Eagles 37
shots off target		**shots off target**
Sergio Aguero 37		Chris Eagles 16
assists		**assists**
David Silva 14		Chris Eagles 6
crosses		**crosses**
James Milner 27		Martin Petrov 65
fouls		**fouls**
Gareth Barry 35		Nigel Reo-Coker 39
free-kicks-won		**free-kicks-won**
Mario Balotelli 28		David Ngog 33
tackles		**tackles**
Micah Richards 47		Nigel Reo-Coker 75

GAMES SINCE

0	a win	1
0	a home win	2
0	an away win	1
5	a defeat	0
4	a home defeat	0
2	an away defeat	0
6	a score draw	9
13	a no score draw	4
2	conceding a goal	0
0	scoring a goal	1
6	conceding > 1	0
0	scoring > 1	1
0	keeping a clean sheet	1
5	failing to score	0
0	back to back wins	5
9	back to back defeats	2
0	gaining a point	1
5	losing a point	0
0	win by > one	1
31	loss by > one	0

SHARP SHOOTERS

Man City	Prem	Cup	Tot
Sergio Aguero	16	5	21
Edin Dzeko	13	4	17
Mario Balotelli	10	3	13
David Silva	5	2	7
Adam Johnson	5	1	6

Bolton	Prem	Cup	Tot
Marvin Sordell	8	2	10
Ivan Klasnic	7	1	8
Chris Eagles	3	2	5
Mark Davies	3	0	3
David Ngog	2	1	3

TEAM HEAD TO HEAD RECORD

Played 111	Man City wins 45	Bolton wins 41
Draws 25	Goals 169 (1.5 per game)	Goals 168 (1.5 per game)
0-0's 5	Times failed to score 24	Times failed to score 29

Biggest League win at Man City for each team:
21/03/1936 Man City 7-0 Bolton
13/09/1919 Man City 1-4 Bolton

PRESS ASSOCIATION Sport

EA SPORTS PLAYER PERFORMANCE INDEX

MAN CITY		
Rank	Name	Score
4	D Silva	514
6	S Aguero	476
12	J Lescott	391
16	J Hart	376
17	V Kompany	367

BOLTON		
Rank	Name	Score
113	M Davies	230
141	I Klasnic	205
143	N Reo-Coker	204
147	C Eagles	203
190	M Petrov	165

Top five ranked players for each team

LEAGUE STATS



1	Position	19
26	Played	26
20	Won	6
3	Drawn	2
3	Lost	18
67	Goals For	29
19	Goals Against	54
63	Points	20



Record Against Top Half of Table

W	D	L	RANK	W	D	L	RANK
8	1	3	2	2	1	13	18

Record Against Bottom Half of Table

W	D	L	RANK	W	D	L	RANK
12	2	0	1	4	1	5	18

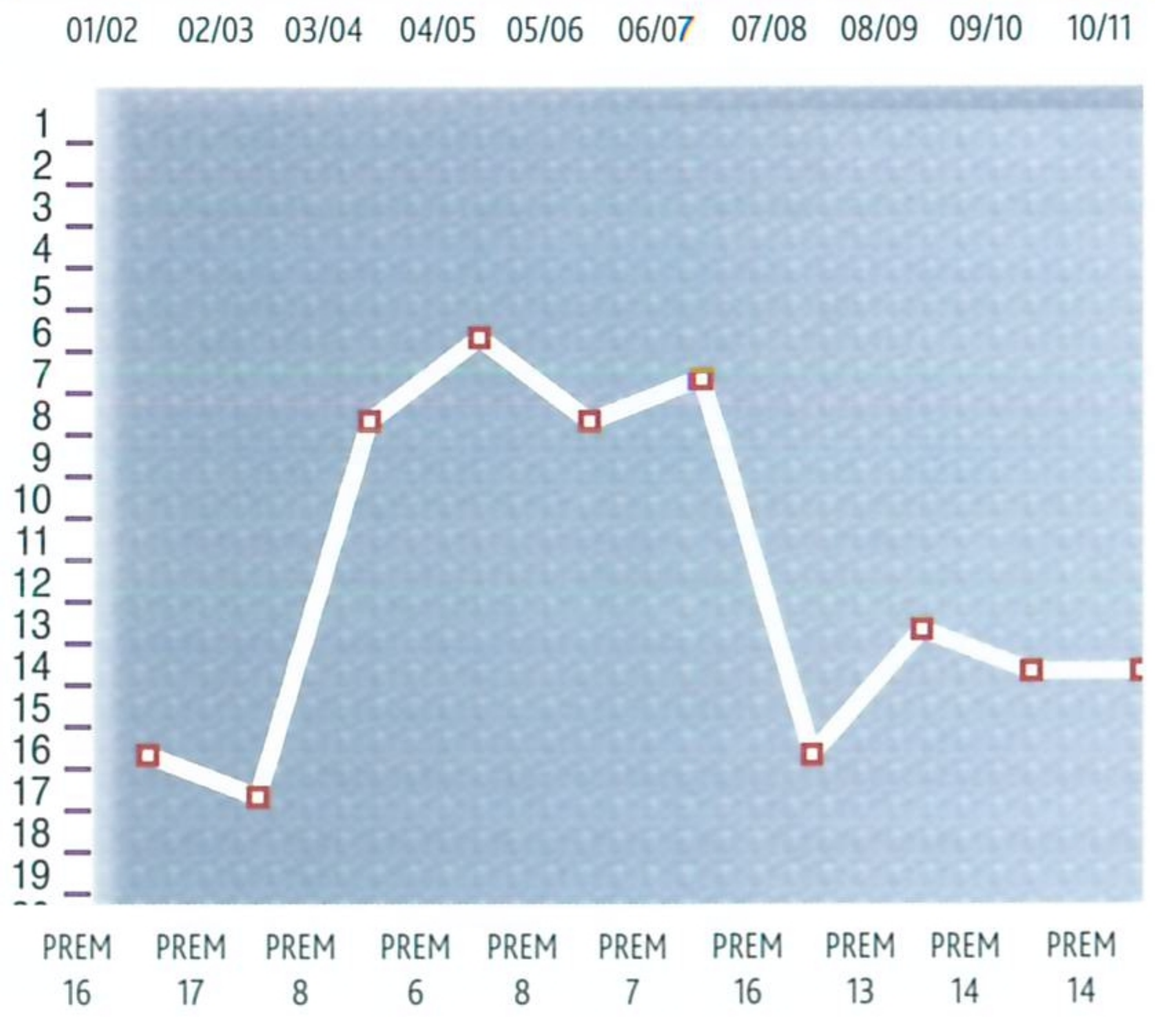
Record When Scoring First

W	D	L	RANK	W	D	L	RANK
19	2	1	2	5	1	0	15

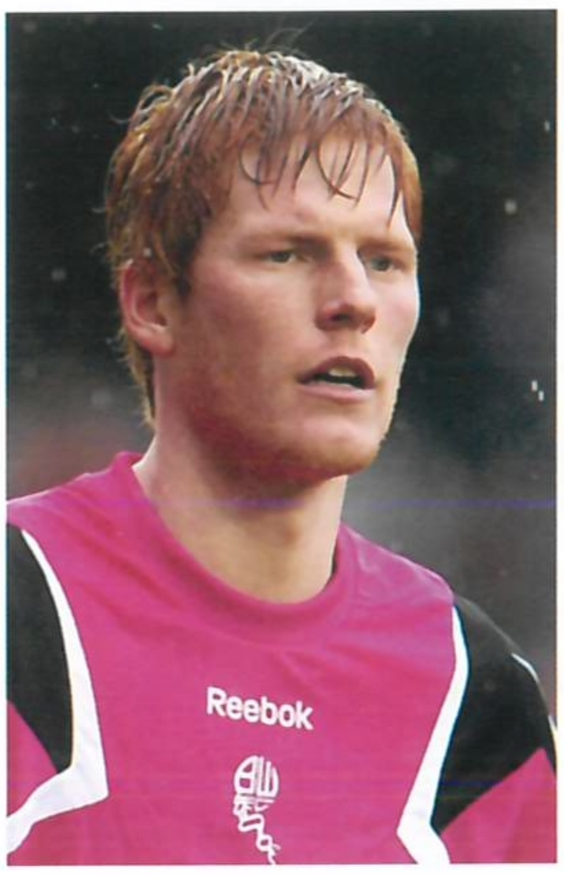
Record When Conceding First

W	D	L	RANK	W	D	L	RANK
1	0	2	17	1	0	18	18

BOLTON – TEN SEASON RECORD



**up to and including 26/02/2012*



Above: Adam Bogdan

Below: Gretar Rafn Steinsson

Below right: Fabrice Muamba



Only three players remain from the squad who progressed from a group including Bayern Munich and overcame Atletico Madrid in the first knock-out round before going out to Sporting Lisbon.

Jussi Jaaskelainen and Ricardo Gardner are the two longest-serving players, both dating back to Wanderers' last spell outside the Premier League, and Kevin Davies has given outstanding service for nine seasons. Only in the last couple of months was the once-capped centre-forward out of the starting side.

Jaaskelainen was up to 527 appearances for the club when a thigh injury two months ago opened the door to Adam Bogdan and the young Hungarian held his place when his 36-year-old rival regained fitness.

Gary Megson was appointed manager early in the last European campaign and over two years he brought in the back four who appeared at Wembley last season.

Gary Cahill and Zat Knight were together for a time at Aston Villa and in the case of Cahill, Bolton became a stepping stone to the England squad and a big-money move to Chelsea in January.

Gretar Rafn Steinsson became Megson's right-back in 2007 and he was to sign two more full-backs in 2009. Sam Ricketts and former England Under-21 international Paul Robinson both helped previous clubs into the Premier League.

Fabrice Muamba, capped 33 times at Under-21 level, also won promotion with Birmingham and another West Midlands link opened with the arrival of Mark Davies from Wolves.

Ivan Klasnic is another legacy from the Megson era, spending a season on loan before completing a full move in 2010. The Croatian is the club's top striker this season after scoring in the first three matches.

FACT

Numerous players have scored two goals in a match for Bolton in the Premier League but the only hat trick was by German striker Fredi Bobic in 2002.

The loan contingent

A feature of Owen Coyle's two-year term has been his profitable use of loan transfers.

City winger Vladimir Weiss went to a World Cup after playing for Bolton in 2010 and both Arsenal midfielder Jack Wilshere and Chelsea striker Daniel Sturridge won full England caps after returning to their bases in London.

The three clubs again sourced loans to The Reebok this season. City defender Dedryck Boyata was enlisted in August, Gael Kakuta checked in from Chelsea before taking up a new option in France and Arsenal's Ryo Miyaichi, made his Bolton debut last month. The 19-year-old Gunner was named in Japan's squad for a World Cup qualifier this week.

An earlier loan was agreed on a season-long basis with Wolfsburg for Tuncay Sanli after the Turkish forward's previous spells in England with Middlesbrough and Stoke.

In 2010, Coyle's first summer at the club brought two signings from local quarters. Robbie Blake, now 35, came in from the manager's previous home at Turf Moor and Martin Petrov closed his three-year stay with City.

Building on a position of strength halfway through last season, the manager was able to secure a centre-back who had appeared on Fabio Capello's radar when called into England squads in 2008. David Wheater's contract at Middlesbrough was running down when Bolton made their move for the six-foot-five defender dubbed "The Redcar Rock".

As Coyle drew up plans for this season, the summer window was probably the busiest yet. Apart from the Eagles-Mears double from Burnley, he secured Liverpool striker David Ngog and targeted two free agents for his midfield squad.

Former England Under-21 international Nigel Reo-Coker completed his Villa contract after four years and Darren Pratley's last appearance for Swansea was at Wembley in their Play-Off final win against Reading.

This January, with a relegation fight on their hands, Wanderers signed US national team defender Tim Ream as a replacement for Cahill and sealed a deadline move for Watford's England Under-21 striker, Marvin Sordell.







Illustrations by John Devlin
www.truecoloursfootballkits.com

Bolton Roll Call

Player	Birthplace/Date	Previous Club	THIS SEASON Lge Apps	Cups Apps	Total Goals
Marcos Alonso	Madrid 28.12.90	Real Madrid	2	1	-
Robbie Blake	Middlesbrough 4.3.76	Burnley	-(1)	1(1)	-
Adam Blakeman	Widnes 3.12.91	Academy	-	-(1)	-
Adam Bogdan	Budapest 27.9.87	Vasas	8	7	-
Dedryck Boyata	Brussels 8.9.90	Manchester City	9(1)	2	1
Kevin Davies	Sheffield 26.3.77	Southampton	15(7)	2(3)	3
Mark Davies	Wolverhampton 18.2.88	Wolverhampton W	17(6)	5(2)	3
Chris Eagles	Hemel Hempstead 19.11.85	Burnley	19(5)	4(2)	5
Ricardo Gardner	St Andrews 25.9.78	Harbour View	2(2)	2	-
Stuart Holden	Aberdeen 1.8.85	Houston Dynamo	-	1	-
Jussi Jaaskelainen	Vaasa 19.4.75	VPS	18	-	-
Ivan Klasnic	Hamburg 29.1.80	Nantes	14(4)	3	8
Zat Knight	Solihull 2.5.80	Aston Villa	19(2)	3	-
Rob Lainton	Ashton-u-Lyne 12.10.89	Academy	-	-	-
Lee Chung-Yong	Seoul 2.7.88	FC Seoul	-	-	-
Tyrone Mears	Stockport 18.2.83	Burnley	1	-	-
Ryo Miyaichi	Japan 14.12.92	Arsenal	1(1)	1	1
Fabrice Muamba	Kinshasa 6.4.88	Birmingham City	18	3(1)	2
David Ngog	Paris 1.4.89	Liverpool	15(6)	3(3)	3
Michael O'Halloran	Glasgow 6.1.91	Academy	-	-(2)	-
Martin Petrov	Vzatza 15.1.79	Manchester City	19(1)	4	3
Darren Pratley	Barking 22.4.85	Swansea City	9(11)	5(1)	1
Tim Ream	St Louis 5.10.87	New York Red Bulls	1	1	-
Nigel Reo-Coker	Thornton Heath 14.5.84	Aston Villa	25	4	3
Sam Ricketts	Aylesbury 11.10.81	Hull City	8	3	1
Joe Riley	Salford 13.10.91	Academy	2(1)	4	-
Paul Robinson	Watford 14.12.78	West Bromwich Albion	15(2)	1(2)	-
Marvin Sordell	Pinner 17.2.91	Watford	-(2)	-	-
Gretar Rafn Steinsson	Siglufjordur (Iceland) 9.1.82	AZ Alkmaar	14(3)	3	1
Tuncay Sanli	Sakarya 16.2.82	VFL Wolfsburg	3(13)	4(1)	1
David Wheater	Redcar 14.2.87	Middlesbrough	13	6	1
Own Goals	-	-	-	-	2

ALSO PLAYED: Gary Cahill (to Chelsea) 19 Lge, 2 Cup, 2 goals; Gael Kakuta (on loan from Chelsea) 4 subs Lge, 2 Cup, 1 goal

Up to and including Saturday 25th February

Wanderers in the Premier League years

	Div	Pos	FAC	Lge Cup	Europe	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	Av Att
1992-93	2	2nd	Rd 5	Rd 2	-	46	27	9	10	80	41	90	9,062
1993-94	1	14th	Rd 6	Rd 2	-	46	15	14	17	63	64	59	10,498
1994-95	1	3rd	Rd 3	RU	-	46	21	14	11	67	45	77	13,029
1995-96	Prem	20th	Rd 4	Rd 4	-	38	8	5	25	39	71	29	18,822
1996-97	1	1st	Rd 4	Rd 5	-	46	28	14	4	100	53	98	15,826
1997-98	Prem	18th	Rd 3	Rd 4	-	38	9	13	16	41	61	40	24,352
1998-99	1	6th	Rd 3	Rd 4	-	46	20	16	10	78	59	76	18,240
1999-00	1	6th	SF	SF	-	46	21	13	12	69	50	76	14,244
2000-01	1	3rd	Rd 5	Rd 1	-	46	24	15	7	76	45	87	16,062
2001-02	Prem	16th	Rd 4	Rd 5	-	38	9	13	16	44	62	40	25,098
2002-03	Prem	17th	Rd 3	Rd 2	-	38	10	14	14	41	51	44	24,965
2003-04	Prem	8th	Rd 3	RU	-	38	14	11	13	48	56	53	26,718
2004-05	Prem	6th	Rd 6	Rd 3	-	38	16	10	12	49	44	58	26,005
2005-06	Prem	8th	Rd 5	Rd 5	UC 3	38	15	11	12	49	41	56	25,265
2006-07	Prem	7th	Rd 4	Rd 3	-	38	16	8	14	47	52	56	23,606
2007-08	Prem	16th	Rd 3	Rd 4	UC L16	38	9	10	19	36	54	37	20,901
2008-09	Prem	13th	Rd 3	Rd 2	-	38	11	8	19	41	53	41	22,486
2009-10	Prem	14th	Rd 5	Rd 4	-	38	10	9	19	42	67	39	21,880
2010-11	Prem	14th	SF	Rd 3	-	38	12	10	16	52	56	46	22,869



Manager

Owen Coyle

Born: Paisley, 14th July 1966

PLAYER

Clubs: Dumbarton (1985-88), Clydebank (1988-90), Airdrie (1990-93), Bolton Wanderers (1993-95), Dundee United (1995-96), Motherwell (1997-99), Dunfermline (1999-01), Ross County (loan, 2000-01), Airdrie (2001-02), Falkirk (2002-03), Dundee United (2003), Airdrie United (loan, 2003-04), Airdrie United (2004-05), St Johnstone (2005-06)
League Record: 666 games, 247 goals
International: Republic of Ireland, 1 (Full), 1 (B), 2 (U-21)
Honours: Airdrie (promotion from Division One, 1990-91), Bolton (promotion from Division One, 1994-95), Dundee United (promotion from Division One, 1995-96), Dunfermline (promotion from Division One, 1999-00), Falkirk (Division One, 2002-03), Airdrie United (Division Two, 2003-04)

MANAGEMENT

Clubs: Falkirk (co-player-manager, 2003), St Johnstone (2005-07), Burnley (2007-10), Bolton Wanderers (Jan 2010 to date)
Honours: Burnley (promotion from Championship, 2008-09)

League Record (to 25th February)

	P	W	D	L	Pts
Falkirk	16	11	2	3	35
St Johnstone	89	42	28	19	154
Burnley	97	37	26	34	137
Bolton Wanderers	84	24	15	45	87
TOTAL	286	114	71	101	413

Bolton's Premier League record

P 482 W 145 D 124 L 213 F 525 A 722 Pts 559

Biggest win: 5-0 v Leicester City (A) 2001-02
Heaviest defeat: 0-6 v Manchester Utd (A) 1995-96
Highest home attendance: 27,880 v Liverpool 2004-05
Most appearances: Jussi Jaaskelainen – 379
Most goals: Kevin Davies – 64
Most goals in a match:
3 – Fredi Bobic v Ipswich Town (H) 2001-02

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Talking City with Gary James



A series of conversations between author Gary James and figures connected with the Blues – former players, managers, officials, fans and others with a passion for City.

For today's feature, Gary met up with BBC Radio 5 Live's **Will Perry** (pictured). Will has been a Blue since boyhood and also worked for the club for a while.

GJ **Let's start with today, what's your main activity for the BBC?**

WP I'm now regularly on air from 12 to 7 and start with Shelagh Fogerty's show at 12. Then it's Richard Bacon at 2pm, and 5 Live Drive with Peter Allen and Aasmah Mir. It's a real mix of shows and personalities and I come in and do the sports updates. Sports stories are breaking all the time and I never hide the fact I'm a Blue.

Can you explain how your interest in Manchester City began?

My dad had a business with John Apthorp called Bejam – a frozen food retailer that is now Iceland. My dad was a really good friend of Francis Lee, and they owned a racehorse together. They also used to watch City together

When I was four my dad died and I guess Franny took me under his wing. He started to take me to games with his kids and I became totally hooked. We went to games all over the country.

> "I must be the only person who went to Harrow School, had Winston Churchill's old bedroom and have got a Manchester City tattoo on my backside!"

Francis became chairman during this period, did that affect you at all?

The whole "Swales out" thing happened and then, of course, after City had started to struggle while Franny was chairman it became very hard. We all had abuse at school from United fans and that, but I know it was nothing compared to the comments directed at Franny's children. Without going into it too much it was pretty sour at the time.

You didn't go to school in Manchester, so was it hard to follow City from afar?

I went to boarding school in the south and because of that my accent isn't typical Mancunian. I often get people asking, 'Why do you support City?' City was always important and I used to write to Franny and I'd also ask about the history of City – that really appealed to me.

As you entered your teenage years City were at their lowest point so at that age it would have been easy to lose interest. How did you keep the faith?

Like all City fans it was part of me and even though there were some really dark times on the pitch you had to stand firm. Then there was the catalyst – Gillingham. Aside from the 2011 FA Cup and this season, the 1999 Play-Off final is the greatest moment during my support. It was an incredible game and I was with my step-dad – I remember a Gillingham fan grabbing my scarf and throwing it down Wembley Way!

When it was the 89th minute my step-dad wanted to go and lots of fans were leaving, but I wanted to stay. There was absolutely no way I wanted to go. I have a memory of them getting

the Gillingham promotion banner ready in those final minutes. Then the magic happened… I often say that had Paul Dickov not scored that day it's unlikely City would be where they are today. I see him quite a bit because of my work with the BBC and he remains an absolute hero because of that day. We shouldn't forget about Nicky Weaver's role, either.

It's even greater than that in some ways, because the agreement to move to the new stadium was only actually signed and confirmed after promotion, so potentially even this venue would not have been built to the scale it was.

That's right, Gary. None of what we know today would have existed and for me that's the great part about City. It's always been a fantasy, fairy-tale team. We don't know why, but City have always been the most special, amazing, frustrating and bizarre team in the world. Those defeats and struggles in the late '90s made us, to some extent.

I remember making some long journeys to watch City knowing it was going to be a frustrating experience. Wycombe Wanderers did the double over us in 1998-99 (1-0 away and 2-1 at Maine Road). Losing to Macclesfield and Stockport – you can't forget moments like that.

I flew up from London for home matches and had to sneak out of school to get to Manchester. We had some awful times at Maine Road but also some wonderful moments.

I take it you still miss the old ground?

The new stadium is great and when I worked with you at the museum I got to see every bit of the Etihad – good and bad. It's a brilliant, amazing venue and I wouldn't swap it for the world. However, no one can ever take away the magic we experienced at Maine Road. I do miss the place – actually when I'm having a weird day or I need some thinking space I go down to the Maine Road site. I stand on the bonnet of my car and try to take in as much of the site as I can. Some of the old Kippax wall is still there and less than half of the site has been built on.

It sounds cheesy but you can still hear the noises, the crowd and soak in the atmosphere of the place. Maine Road was always magical to me. Sometimes I would get to the ground three hours early and I used to love exploring the streets and back entries around the ground. I'd make a proper day of it. There was so much history at the place.

Ultimately, we had to move and the new stadium helped create what we have today.

Definitely. Maine Road fitted with "typical City" and what we had back then. The ground was a collection of ideas and had areas of real quality but also some awful mistakes. Now we have a uniformed stadium and a consistent approach. I think we need to remember where we came from but we are right to look forward.

How did you feel at Wembley last season when we won the FA Cup?

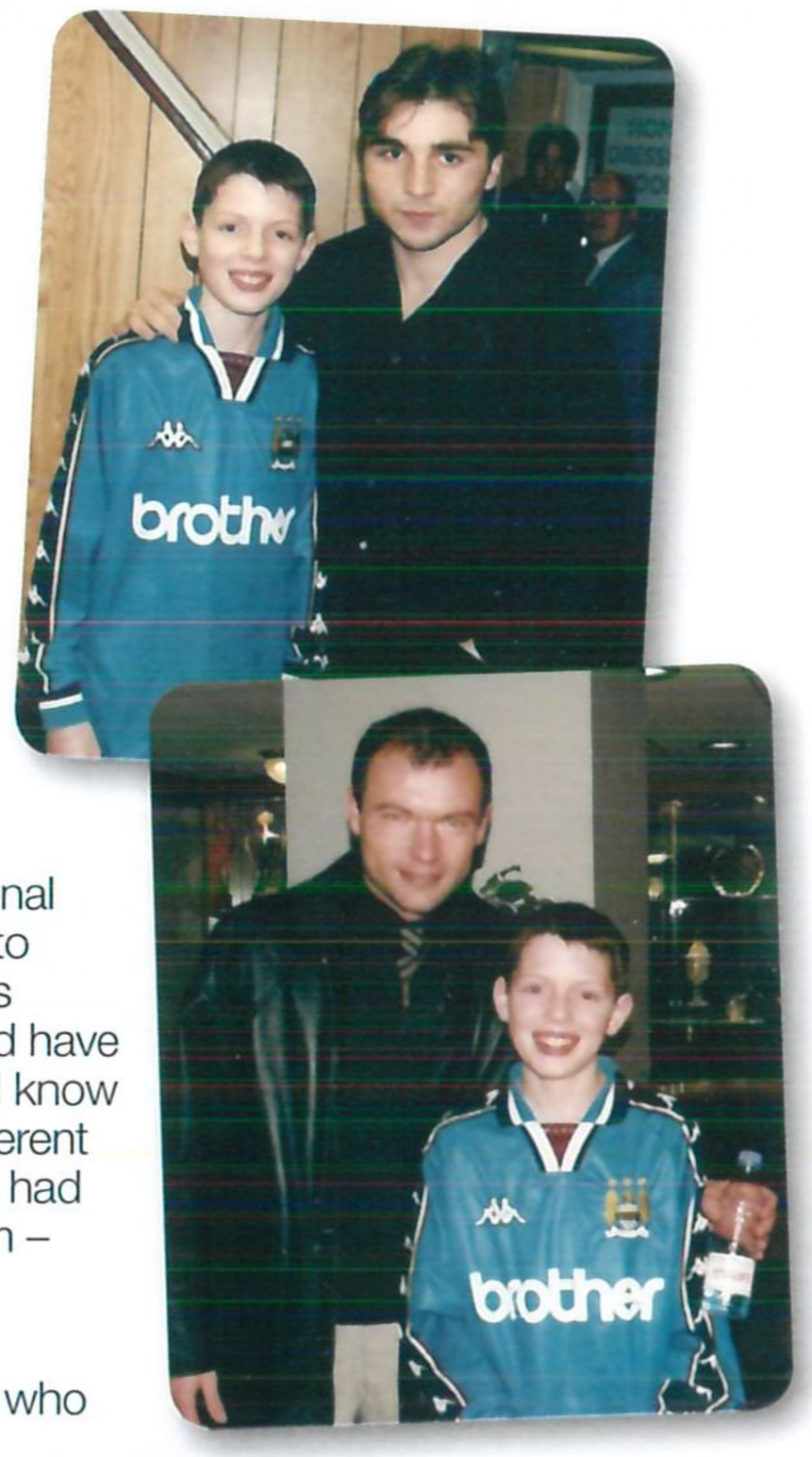
I burst into tears. I always felt we were going to beat Stoke, but I didn't think about how I'd cope when a real trophy was lifted. Back in 1999 the Play-Off final meant so much to me and remains such a powerful memory. Last May there was a boy of about 12 sitting near me when City went up to lift the Cup. It made me think about how I felt at Wembley in 1999 – to me that was City's greatest ever day – and this 12 year old was now going to feel what I felt back then… but this was the FA Cup. This was so significant.

There have been plenty of individual games that have been great over the years, but Wembley in 1999 and 2011 have to be the greatest moments for any fan under the age of about 30.

Going back to your early life, you mentioned boarding school. It was one with a great footballing pedigree wasn't it?

It's a bit odd admitting this but I went to Harrow School. It's a really traditional boarding school. Getting to games in Manchester was difficult because I really did have to sneak out sometimes. I know a Harrow education is different to most City fans but I still had posters up in my bedroom – actually it was Winston Churchill's old bedroom!

I must be the only person who





Above: Young Will with Uwe Rösler and Georgi Kinkladze at Maine Road.

Left: ...and with geography teacher-cum-referee David Elleray at Harrow.



Above: Will at work in Media City.

went to Harrow School, had Winston Churchill's old bedroom and have got a Manchester City tattoo on my backside!

You also had a referee as a teacher didn't you?

David Elleray was my geography teacher at Harrow – he also refereed our matches. Bit awkward if he'd been in charge of a City game and you had to see him the next day, though!

So how did you get from being a Harrovian with a City tattoo on your backside to your present role in the media?

I worked as a ski instructor for a while – my other passion after City – then worked with you at the old City museum. I did a film degree at Manchester Metropolitan but didn't know whether I should follow a film career or focus on something I had a real passion for, like football. Before I'd even left school I wrote to Kelvin MacKenzie at TalkSport asking for a chance. We had a chat and then he gave me some work experience at 17. I loved my time there but still didn't know what I'd do in the long-term, though. After my film degree I came to you at City, and I enjoyed doing the tours. It was a great set-up and I got to meet some really good people on the tours.

I always believed you would be an asset to whatever organisation you worked for, and hoped you'd get an opportunity. I knew that you should be involved in football, but knew that at that time there were no real opportunities at City for you.

Although I enjoyed the tours, I knew it was never going to last. I went to the World Cup in Germany and thought about what I wanted to do. When I came back I managed to do some work for Key 103, then I got a contract at BBC Radio Manchester. It was more great experience.

Then came Channel M – Manchester's now defunct TV channel. I ended up doing my first TV work on *Talking Sharks*. We had no money, so we came up with some creative ideas – we took the Sale Sharks players scuba diving – "Sharks with sharks"!

I started to do games for TalkSport and then got six months on BBC's *NorthWest Tonight*. I was doing sports news sat on the sofa with Gordon Burns – a man I'd grown up watching.

This was all great experience and happened at a fairly rapid pace, did you ever have chance to think long-term?

No, you just have to go with it. I loved the experience and after *Northwest Tonight* I ended up moving to *Sky Sports News*. I remember doing stories on City for Sky – it was a dream to be able to talk about City in that way.

An opportunity came up at BBC Radio 5 Live came up and I think the fact I'd been through the different organisations and areas helped. It's great being able to speak with a national audience and to work with people like Stuart Hall and Mark Pougatch. People I'd listened to at school.

It must be great knowing that you are breaking news. Do you ever think about the size of the audience?

You can't. I see the audience as one person that you're including in the conversation. That's important. I also don't hide the fact that I'm a City fan because I like to think that we should be open and that it builds an image for the people listening.

Being back up here – I was in London for a while – is brilliant because I actually get to a lot of the games now. It tends to be that I'm not working when City play these days, so I can get to watch. If I do have to work then I try to keep in touch and, obviously, watch the game later on *Match Of The Day*.

You tend to cover games on a Saturday, how does that work?

I tend to do 15-second reports and it has to be kept pacey – Stuart Hall usually gets a bit more time! I like to get some info together and ensure that when I'm talking I'm explaining what I'm seeing now – no point reeling off stats, it has to be what's happening. You have to do your research.

It's the same when you're on air during a week day. You have to be prepared and be ready for any sport eventuality. Sometimes it's actually a national news story as well – the Redknapp trial, for example, was both. It's important to understand what you can say and what you can't.

What about your own ambition?

This is an amazing place to be at the moment and I enjoy being at Media City. I'm in a good place broadcasting daily, and I also do sport on the BBC News channel. My ambitions are to develop here and perhaps do a few more feature-style pieces.

I am going to be on a new Radio 2 show with Anneka Rice and I like the variety of it all. My radio hero is Mark Pougatch. I think he's a brilliant broadcaster and he's someone you have to look up to. There are some wonderful people here and it's a great place to work. Peter Allen, who presents *Drive*, asked me about long-term plans the other day. I don't really have a long-term plan. I'm only 28 now and want to develop, of course. I'm learning all the time and being in the same room as Peter Allen and experienced broadcasters like that is absolutely brilliant. I am around the best people to learn from.

So how does it help being with the BBC at Salford?

The BBC move has occurred at the same time as City's resurgence. It's great to be here as a City fan but also exciting from a work perspective.



> "This is an amazing place to be at the moment and I enjoy being at Media City"

I am absolutely convinced City will win the league this year. 100% - in previous years I've never been convinced but this year is so different. I'm totally convinced.

I heard Alan Hansen on *Match Of The Day* talk about City's "crisis" when we had a few stumbles a month or so ago – how can it be a crisis when you're top of the league with more points and a better goal difference throughout that period? For me this year has always been about mounting a league challenge.

Winning the FA Cup allowed us to get a few issues out of the way about trophy-less years and so on, and now we can challenge for the title. I have to say that I believe we all truly appreciate the position we are in now. I genuinely believe that you have to go through a bit of pain or a few setbacks before finding success. If you have everything at once you don't appreciate it. The fun comes from knowing where you've been and enjoying the success when it arrives. That's the same with sport as it is with life.

I'd love to be involved from a broadcasting viewpoint if City reach a European final or when they next find major success. That would be a dream.

You can follow Will Perry on Twitter:
@willperrybbc



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THE MAGIC WEEKEND

Stobart Super Rugby League

Sport as it should be

Here next...



Sporting Lisbon will be coming to Manchester with their second manager in a mixed season in which they have slipped some way behind local rivals Benfica and reigning champions FC Porto.

When Domingo Paciencia's first term ended in February with Sporting in fourth place, former player and youth coach Ricardo Sa Pinto, who won 45 caps for Portugal, was put in charge of the team.

In contrast to their domestic form, Sporting had breezed through their group in the Europa League, taking top spot ahead of Lazio after winning all their home games at the impressive Estadio Jose Avalade. In the first knock-out round, a goal from Chile midfielder Matias Fernandez (above, right) won the home leg against Legia Warsaw after a 2-2 draw in Poland but by then Sporting had parted company with ex-City striker Valeri Bojinov. They still have a former Liverpool player in full-back Emiliano Insua.

ON OUR TRAVELS...

Before next Sunday's trip to South Wales (see last issue) we have another date in Portugal – Lisbon on Thursday.

What's it like? Built for Euro 2004, the Estadio Jose Avalade was officially opened just four days before our own Etihad Stadium in August 2003, when Sporting hosted Manchester United in a friendly. It staged five games at the European Championships including a quarter- and semi-final. It also hosted the 2005 UEFA Cup final between Sporting and CSKA Moscow, which the "home" side lost 3-1. The capacity is 50,049 sat on very colourful seats!

The stadium is at the centre of a complex called Avalade XXI which includes a 12-screen cinema, shopping mall and club museum.

Any travel tips? The stadium is situated in the north of Lisbon, about four and a half miles from the city centre. It is situated next to the E1 motorway (exit 5) and by public transport is best reached via metro. From the city centre take the green line north and get off at station Campo Grande, which is right next to the stadium.



Did you know? Sporting have a player called Ricky van Wolfswinkel!

Etihad Stadium

Ground Regulations & First Aid

First Aid

There are a number of First Aid facilities throughout the stadium with a medical centre housed in the basement of the West Stand. Anyone needing medical attention should seek a steward who will direct them to the nearest first aid post.

Smoking

Smoking is not permitted in the Etihad Stadium and all areas of the Etihad Campus. This includes toilets, spiral stairwells, concourses, seats and all hospitality areas including atriums. Anyone who does smoke in the Stadium faces ejection and a possible ban.

Alcohol

The club have a licence to sell alcohol within the stadium on matchdays with the proviso that drinking is confined to the concourse areas, but is also prohibited in the blue hatched areas on level one. Alcohol is not permitted within the stands.

Emergency Procedures

In the event of an emergency occurring at the stadium, the Public Address System will be used to broadcast information and directions to spectators. Such broadcasts will be repeated. If there is a requirement to evacuate the stadium that message will be broadcast to all areas, and spectators will need to follow the instructions provided. They will also need to listen to the directions of club stewards who will be there to assist.

Box Office 0161 444 1894 option 1

Ticket News



How to buy your tickets...

By phone*

Call 0161 444 1894 (option 1)

Lines open:
24 hours

Visit the Stadium Ticket Office in person

Ticket Office open:
Mon-Sat 9am-5.30pm
Sun 11am-5pm

Register and buy tickets online*

Visit: www.mcfc.co.uk

**There is a booking fee of £2.50 per ticket ordered by phone. No booking fee online.*

General Enquiries...

By phone

0161 444 1894 (option 1);
Lines open:
Mon-Sat 9am-5.30pm
Sun 11am-5pm

By email

tickets@mcfc.co.uk

Hospitality

0161 444 1894
www.mcfc.co.uk/hospitality

PLEASE NOTE...
If the supporter number used is that of an Adult, then only an Adult ticket may be purchased. This also applies to Junior and over-65s.

Home fixtures...

Manchester City v Sporting Lisbon

UEFA Europa League Round of 16 2nd leg
Etihad Stadium

Thursday 15th March, kick-off 8.05pm

Prices from: Adult £17.50, over-65 and 16-21 £10 and under-16 £5.

Platinum and Gold Members who are not registered on the European Cup Scheme are kindly reminded that their seasonal seat is not guaranteed for any cup game played at the Etihad Stadium.

10 loyalty points will be awarded for attending this fixture. Platinum Members will receive 20 loyalty points.

On sale:
General sale **Now**

Manchester City v Chelsea

Barclays Premier League
Etihad Stadium

Monday 19th March, kick-off 8pm
(Subject to Chelsea not being involved in an FA Cup quarter-final)

Prices from: Adult £40, over-65 and 18-21 £30, 16-17 £15 and under-16 £10.

10 loyalty points will be awarded for attending this fixture.

On sale:
General sale **Now**

Manchester City v Sunderland

Barclays Premier League
Etihad Stadium

Saturday 31st March, kick-off 3pm

Prices from: Adult £25, over-65 and 18-21 £20, 16-17 £15 and under-16 £5.

10 loyalty points will be awarded for attending this fixture.

On sale:
General sale **Now**

Away fixtures...

Sporting Lisbon v Manchester City

UEFA Europa League Round of 16 1st leg
Estadio Jose Alvalade

Thursday 8th March, kick-off 6pm (local time)

Prices: £30 (no concessions).
20 loyalty points will be awarded to Gold Members for attending this fixture. Platinum Members will receive 40 loyalty points.

On sale:
General sale **Now**

Swansea City v Manchester City

Barclays Premier League
Liberty Stadium

Sunday 11th March, kick-off 2pm
SOLD OUT

Stoke City v Manchester City

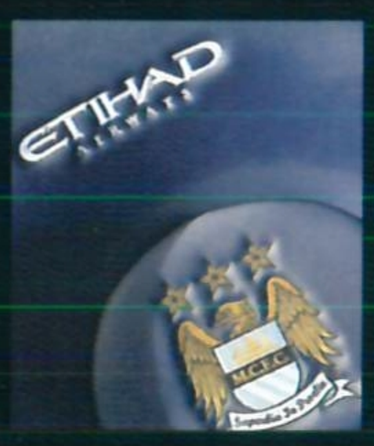
Barclays Premier League
Britannia Stadium

Saturday 24th March, kick-off 5.30pm

Prices: Adult £35, over-65 £24, under-17 £20, under-11 £17.
20 loyalty points will be awarded for attending this fixture. Platinum Members will receive 40 loyalty points.

On sale:
Platinum/Gold Members with...
5,000 or more loyalty points **Now**
4,000 or more loyalty points **Mon 5 Mar**
3,000 or more loyalty points **Tue 6 Mar**
2,000 or more loyalty points **Wed 7 Mar**
All Platinum/Gold Members **Thu 8 Mar**
Blue Members with match ticket priority **Fri 9 Mar**
General sale **Sat 10 Mar**

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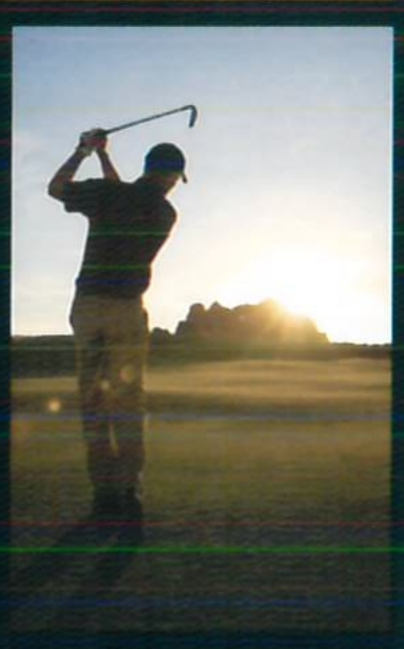


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As a Hospitality guest we've plenty of VIP ideas to get you under the skin of the club. Pitch-side tours, away trips, unique events, behind the scenes access, upgrades, even music events. And more often than not, our guests can find they're in the company of major City personalities, past and present.

To discuss your City experience call us on 0161 444 1894 or visit mcfc.co.uk/hospitality

Day by day with the Blues...

Diary



Thursday 23rd February

After eliminating FC Porto, City will face another Portuguese club in the next round of the Europa League. Sporting Clube de Portugal, popularly known as Sporting Lisbon, have booked their passage to the last 16 with a 1-0 home win against the Polish Cup holders, Legia Warsaw.

Saturday 25th February

Barclays Premier League
Etihad Stadium

Manchester City 3 Balotelli 30, Aguero 52, Dzeko 81
Blackburn Rovers 0
HT 1-0 Att: 46,782

City: Hart, Zabaleta, Kompany, Lescott, Kolarov, De Jong, Yaya Toure (Milner 86), A Johnson (Pizarro 71), Silva, Aguero, Balotelli (Dzeko 79). Unused: Pantilimon, Richards, Clichy, Nasri.

Blackburn: Robinson, Orr, Dann, Hanley, Martin Olsson, Hoilett, Formica (Rochina 69), Petrovic (Nzonzi 69), Pedersen, Yakubu, Marcus Olsson. Unused: Bunn, Modeste, Goodwillie, Vukcevic, Henley.

Team News

- Four changes after the midweek progress in Europe: Pablo Zabaleta and Aleksandar Kolarov return in the full-back positions; Adam Johnson and Mario Balotelli come in for Samir Nasri and Gareth Barry, the England man dropping out because of an injury.
- Yaya Toure makes his first Premier League appearance since 3rd January after missing five matches because of his involvement in the Africa Cup of Nations.
- For the first time in the Premier League, Blackburn fans are seeing double with defensive regular Martin Olsson joined in the team by his recently signed twin, Marcus.



Fixtures

Barclays Premier League

Saturday 3rd March
- Liverpool v Arsenal
- Blackburn v Aston Villa
- CITY v Bolton
- QPR v Everton
- Stoke v Norwich
- West Bromwich Albion v Chelsea
- Wigan v Swansea

Sunday 4th March
- Newcastle v Sunderland
- Fulham v Wolves
- Tottenham v Man United

Saturday 10th March
- Bolton v QPR
- Aston Villa v Fulham
- Chelsea v Stoke
- Sunderland v Liverpool
- Wolves v Blackburn
- Everton v Tottenham

Sunday 11th March
- Man United v West Bromwich Albion
- Swansea v CITY
- Norwich v Wigan

Monday 12th March
- Arsenal v Newcastle

UEFA Europa League
Round of 16 1st leg

Thursday 8th March
- Metalist v Olympiacos
- Sporting Lisbon v CITY
- Twente v Schalke
- Standard Liege v Hannover 96
- Valencia v PSV Eindhoven
- AZ Alkmaar v Udinese
- Atletico Madrid v Besiktas
- Man United v Athletic Bilbao

LIVE TV Sky ESPN ITV Five

Top: Sergio Aguero celebrating his goal last week with Joleon Lescott.

Left: Yaya Toure back in the thick of Premier League action.



Match Points

- The record-breaking run at home extends to 18 consecutive wins in the Premier League – almost exactly a year since Fulham became the last visiting team to leave with a point.
- Sergio Aguero's goal is City 100th home league goal against Blackburn.

Table Lines

		P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1st	City	26	20	3	3	67	19	63
18th	Blackburn	26	5	6	15	37	59	21

David Platt: "In terms of possession, we controlled the game. We knew we had to get off to a good start in terms of rhythm, and not let them settle. We did that and created chances; you felt that the goal was coming"

Steve Kean (Blackburn manager): "Today we tried to minimise the amount of times Man City could play through us. We tried to get a defensive organisation like we did against Liverpool and Manchester United. But I don't think that was the problem for us today. It was when we did get the ball back, we never kept it the way we normally do"

Premier Academy League

West Bromwich Albion 0
Manchester City 1 Rusnak pen 35
HT 0-1

City: Lawlor, Smith-Brown, Kennedy, Meppen-Walter (El Fitouri 82), Leigh, Glendon, Drury, Evans, Cole, Hiwula, Rusnak. Unused: O'Brien, Bryan, McHale, Barker.

Tuesday 28th February

Central League Cup – Group A

Carrington

Preston North End Res 3 Proctor 65, Murphy pen 74, McLellan 76
Manchester City EDS 1 Scapuzzi 68
HT 0-0

Preston: Arestidou, Leather, Wright, Nicholson, Devine, McLean, McLaughlin, Miller, Proctor (McLellan 66), Murphy, Smith (Billington 80). Unused: Comrie, Clucas.

City: Lawlor, Wabara, Meppen-Walter, Evans (Glendon 77), Kennedy, Tse, Drury (Rusnak 63), Scapuzzi, Tevez (Hiwula h-t), Benali. Unused: Johnson (trialist), Leigh.

Match Points

- Carlos is back. In a re-arranged match, switched to Carrington from Preston's reserve home at Chorley, Carlos Tevez is given 45 minutes in his first match since returning to the club.
- Preston, watched by manager Graham Westley, field a strong a team with a number of first-team players and an Arsenal loanee in Rhys Murphy.

Paper Talk

Lancashire Telegraph:

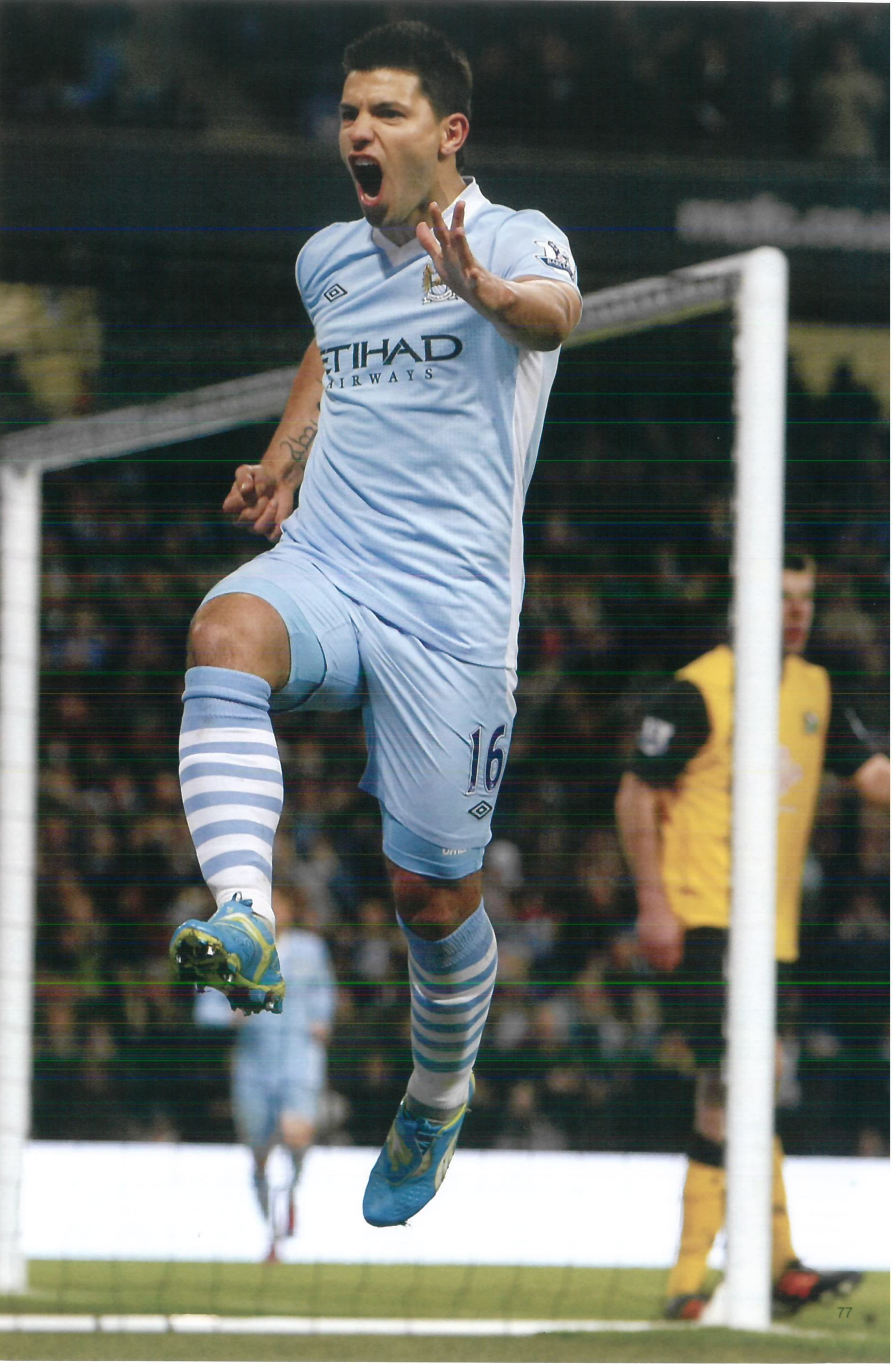
"[At 2-0] an already one-sided game began to look even more like a practice match for the hosts as they stroked the ball around under little challenge from a very defensive Rovers"

Above left: Blackburn double-up on David Silva...

Above: ...but Mario Balotelli has four to contend with!

Below: Edin Dzeko loses his marker to head City's third goal.

Above and right: Sergio Aguero scoring City's second goal against Blackburn last week. It was the Blues' 100th home league goal against Rovers and the 16th Premier League goal of the season for City's number 16.


ETIHAD
AIRWAYS
16



City Roll Call

Name	Birthdate	SEASON 2011-12 League Apps	League Gls	Cups Apps	Cups Gls	CITY CAREER League Apps	League Gls	Cups Apps	Cups Gls
*Emmanuel Adebayor	26.02.84	-	-	-	-	27 (7)	15	9 (2)	4
Sergio Aguero	02.06.88	23 (2)	16	6 (6)	5	23 (2)	16	6 (6)	5
Mario Balotelli	12.08.90	8 (8)	10	6 (1)	3	20 (13)	16	14 (4)	7
Gareth Barry	23.02.81	21 (2)	1	7 (2)	-	86 (4)	5	26 (6)	1
*Dedryck Boyata	28.11.90	-	-	-	-	6 (4)	-	9 (4)	1
*Wayne Bridge	05.08.80	-	-	1	-	40 (2)	-	15 (1)	-
Gael Clichy	26.07.85	17	-	6 (2)	-	17	-	6 (2)	-
*Greg Cunningham	31.01.91	-	-	-	-	- (2)	-	1 (2)	-
Nigel De Jong	30.11.84	6 (6)	-	11 (2)	1	82 (12)	1	26 (4)	1
Edin Dzeko	17.03.86	14 (8)	13	9 (2)	5	22 (15)	15	14 (3)	9
*John Guidetti	15.04.92	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Owen Hargreaves	20.01.81	- (1)	-	2 (1)	1	- (1)	-	2 (1)	1
Joe Hart	19.04.87	26	-	11	-	114	-	44	-
*Abdisalam Ibrahim	01.05.91	-	-	-	-	- (1)	-	2	-
Adam Johnson	14.07.87	9 (10)	5	7 (6)	1	38 (28)	10	14 (9)	4
*Michael Johnson	24.02.88	-	-	-	-	36 (1)	2	7 (1)	1
Aleksandar Kolarov	10.11.85	8 (2)	1	9 (4)	2	29 (6)	2	20 (6)	4
Vincent Kompany	10.04.86	22	2	10	-	114 (4)	5	37 (4)	-
Joleon Lescott	16.08.82	22 (1)	2	10	1	59 (4)	6	31	2
*Ryan McGivern	08.01.90	-	-	-	-	- (1)	-	-	-
James Milner	04.01.86	15 (6)	3	5 (5)	-	38 (15)	3	11 (8)	1
Samir Nasri	26.06.87	15 (4)	3	11 (2)	1	15 (4)	3	11 (2)	1
Gunnar Nielsen	07.10.86	-	-	-	-	- (1)	-	-	-
Costel Pantilimon	01.02.87	-	-	4	-	-	-	4	-
David Pizarro	11.09.79	- (2)	-	- (1)	1	- (2)	-	- (1)	1
*Abdul Razak	11.11.92	- (1)	-	2 (1)	-	- (2)	-	2 (1)	-
Karim Rekik	02.12.94	-	-	- (2)	-	-	-	- (2)	-
Micah Richards	24.06.88	18 (3)	1	7	-	150 (12)	7	54 (1)	3
*Roque Santa Cruz	16.08.81	-	-	-	-	6 (14)	3	2 (2)	1
Stefan Savic	08.01.91	4 (6)	1	7 (1)	-	4 (6)	1	7 (1)	-
*Luca Scapuzzi	15.04.91	-	-	1 (1)	1	-	-	1 (1)	1
David Silva	08.01.86	23 (3)	5	11	2	53 (8)	9	25 (4)	4
Denis Suarez	06.01.94	-	-	- (1)	-	-	-	- (1)	-
Stuart Taylor	28.11.80	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
*Alex Tchuimeni-Nimely	11.05.91	-	-	-	-	- (1)	-	1	-
Carlos Tevez	05.02.84	1 (2)	-	1 (1)	-	63 (6)	43	17 (5)	9
Kolo Toure	19.03.81	4 (4)	-	4	-	56 (5)	2	15	1
Yaya Toure	13.05.83	21	3	9	3	56	11	23 (1)	7
Reece Wabara	28.12.91	-	-	-	-	- (1)	-	-	-
*Vladimir Weiss	30.11.89	-	-	-	-	- (1)	-	2 (2)	1
Pablo Zabaleta	16.01.85	9 (2)	-	8 (2)	-	79 (14)	3	41 (9)	-
Own goals			1		2				

(Figures in brackets are substitute appearances).
* = Out on loan Cup figures include FA Cup, Carling Cup, FA Community Shield and Europe.

Also played 2011-12: Nedum Onuoha (to QPR) 1 sub app League; 2 apps Cups.

Up to and including Saturday 25th February

City v Bolton

Our full league record against Wanderers:

	P	W	D	L	F	A
Home	55	32	10	13	103	62
Away	56	13	15	28	66	106
TOTAL	111	45	25	41	169	168

First met in league: 1900-01
Doubles achieved: 9
Doubles conceded: 11

Biggest wins: Home: 7-0, 1935-36
Away: 3-1, 1905-06 and 1955-56

Heaviest defeats: Home: 1-4, 1919-20
Away: 2-6, 1919-20; 0-5, 1921-22

Last home win: 1-0, 2010-11
Last away win: 3-2, 2011-12
Last home draw: 2-2, 1979-80
Last away draw: 3-3, 2009-10
Last home defeat: 0-2, 2006-07
Last away defeat: 0-2, 2008-09

Last City hat-trick: Joe Hayes (H) 1964-65

ETIHAD STADIUM LEAGUE MEETINGS

Saturday 18th October 2003
Barclaycard Premiership
City 6 Wright-Phillips 27, 56, Distin 48, Anelka 58, 72, Reyna 84
Bolton 2 Nolan 25, Campo 60
Att: 47,101 (2,899 Bolton)

Monday 7th March 2005
FA Barclays Premiership
City 0
Bolton 1 Diouf 45
Att: 43,050 (1,558 Bolton)

Sunday 18th September 2005
FA Barclays Premiership
City 0
Bolton 1 Speed pen 90
Att: 43,137 (2,066 Bolton)

Saturday 23rd December 2006
Barclays Premiership
City 0
Bolton 2 Anelka 8, 25
Att: 40,157 (2,794 Bolton)

Saturday 15th December 2007
Barclays Premier League
City 4 Bianchi 7, Michalik og 48, Vassell 77, Etuhu 90
Bolton 2 Diouf 31, Nolan 40
Att: 40,506 (1,986 Bolton)

Saturday 24th May 2009
Barclays Premier League
City 1 Caicedo 8
Bolton 0
Att: 47,202 (2,800 Bolton)

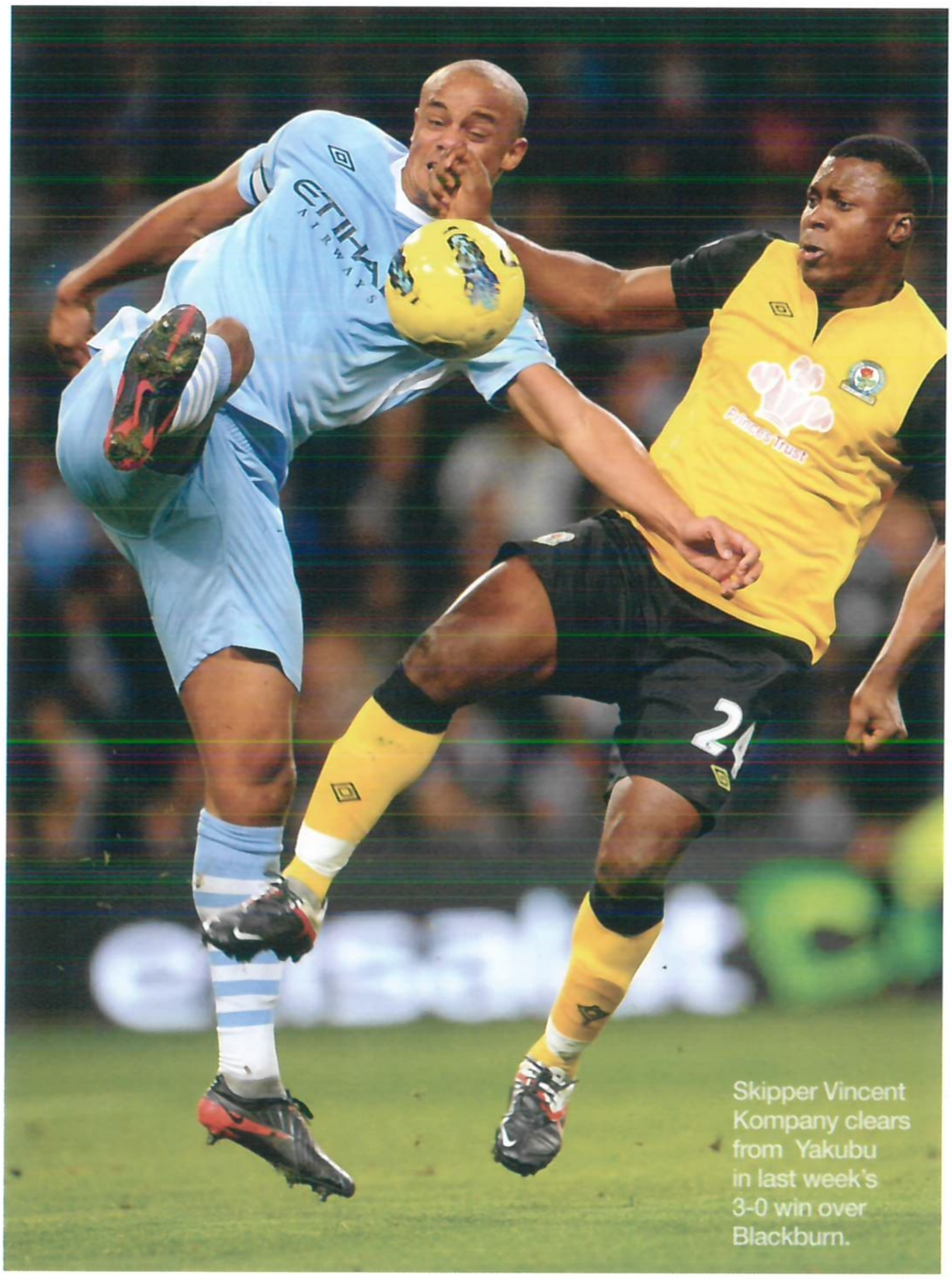
Tuesday 9th February 2010
Barclays Premier League
City 2 Tevez pen 31, Adebayor 73
Bolton 0
Att: 42,016 (985 Bolton)

Saturday 4th December 2010
Barclays Premier League
CITY 1 Tevez 4
BOLTON 0
HT 1-0 Att: 46,860 (2,431 Bolton)

City: Hart, Zabaleta, Kolo Toure (Lescott 31), Kompany, Kolarov, De Jong, Barry, Yaya Toure, Silva (Richards 84), Tevez (Milner 90), Balotelli. Unused: Given, A Johnson, Vieira, Jô.
Bolton: Jaaskelainen, Ricketts, Cahill, Knight, Robinson, Lee Chung-Yong (Rodrigo Moreno 82), M Davies, Muamba, Petrov (Taylor 63), K Davies, Elmander (Klasnic 77). Unused: Bogdan, Steinsson, Blake, Cohen.

2011-12
Barclays Premier League statistics

		Home						Away						
		P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1	Manchester City	26	13	0	0	40	6	7	3	3	27	13	+48	63
2	Manchester United	26	10	1	2	37	15	9	3	1	26	11	+37	61
3	Tottenham Hotspur	26	10	2	1	29	10	6	3	4	22	20	+21	53
4	Arsenal	26	9	2	2	29	11	5	2	6	24	26	+16	46
5	Chelsea	26	8	2	3	30	19	5	5	3	17	12	+16	46
6	Newcastle United	26	7	4	2	20	14	5	3	5	18	24	0	43
7	Liverpool	25	4	8	0	14	8	6	1	6	15	15	+6	39
8	Norwich City	26	5	4	4	20	17	4	4	5	18	26	-5	35
9	Sunderland	26	5	4	4	20	13	4	2	7	14	17	+4	33
10	Everton	25	5	3	5	14	13	4	3	5	12	14	-1	33
11	Fulham	26	6	4	3	24	19	2	5	6	8	17	-4	33
12	Stoke City	26	5	4	4	17	14	4	2	7	9	24	-12	33
13	West Bromwich Albion	26	3	2	8	13	16	6	3	4	20	19	-2	32
14	Swansea City	26	5	6	2	18	10	2	3	8	10	24	-6	30
15	Aston Villa	26	3	4	6	14	17	3	7	3	15	17	-5	29
16	Wolverhampton W	26	3	2	8	17	28	2	5	6	13	23	-21	22
17	Queen's Park Rangers	26	2	4	7	13	21	3	2	8	14	24	-18	21
18	Blackburn Rovers	26	4	0	9	19	26	1	6	6	18	33	-22	21
19	Bolton Wanderers	26	2	2	9	15	27	4	0	9	14	27	-25	20
20	Wigan Athletic	26	1	6	6	11	22	3	2	8	12	28	-27	20



Skipper Vincent Kompany clears from Yakubu in last week's 3-0 win over Blackburn.

Highest attendance

75,627 Manchester United v Wolves

Lowest attendance

15,195 QPR v Bolton

Highest scoring home wins

8-2 Manchester United v Arsenal
7-1 Arsenal v Blackburn Rovers

Highest scoring away wins

6-1 Manchester City at Manchester Utd
5-0 Manchester United at Bolton
5-0 Manchester United at Fulham
5-1 Manchester City at Tottenham
5-1 Chelsea at Bolton

Most goals in a match

4 Edin Dzeko (Man City) at Tottenham
4 Yakubu (Blackburn) v Swansea

Leading scorers

(Barclays Premier League only)

23 Robin Van Persie (Arsenal)
17 Wayne Rooney (Manchester United)
16 Sergio Aguero (Manchester City)
16 Demba Ba (Newcastle)
13 Edin Dzeko (Manchester City)
13 Yakubu (Blackburn)
11 Emmanuel Adebayor (Tottenham)
10 Mario Balotelli (Manchester City)
10 Clint Dempsey (Fulham)
10 Steven Fletcher (Wolves)
10 Danny Graham (Swansea)
10 Grant Holt (Norwich)
10 Frank Lampard (Chelsea)
9 Gareth Bale (Tottenham)
9 Darren Bent (Aston Villa)
9 Peter Odemwingie (West Bromwich)
9 Daniel Sturridge (Chelsea)

Home League attendances

	Highest	Average
Arsenal	60,106	59,956
Aston Villa	40,053	34,273
Blackburn Rovers	25,570	22,172
Bolton Wanderers	26,854	23,532
Chelsea	41,820	41,591
Everton	39,510	33,100
Fulham	25,700	25,237
Liverpool	45,071	44,810
Manchester City	47,422	47,022
Manchester United	75,627	75,348
Newcastle United	52,305	49,182
Norwich City	26,816	26,547
Queen's Park Rangers	18,076	17,047
Stoke City	27,739	27,190
Sunderland	47,751	38,461
Swansea City	20,526	19,929
Tottenham Hotspur	36,274	36,072
West Bromwich Albion	26,221	24,615
Wigan Athletic	20,601	17,814
Wolverhampton W	27,447	25,636

BARCLAYS PREMIER LEAGUE

Up to and including Sunday 26th February

Manchester City Season 2011-12

Fixtures, dates and times are subject to change

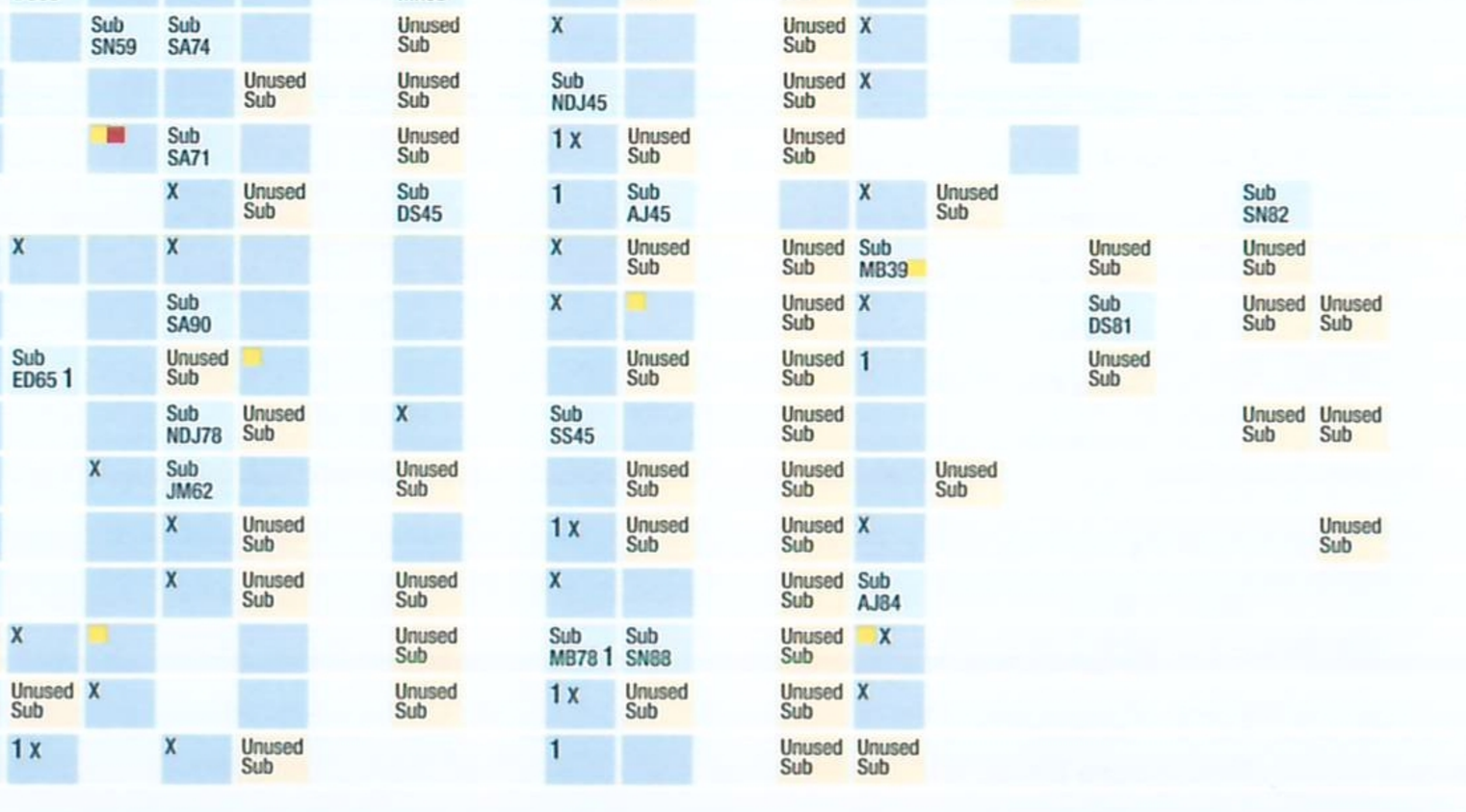
Key: Played | Sub GS75 Sub used + initials of player replaced/time | Unused Sub Unused sub | 1 Goals scored | X Replaced | Debut City Debut | Yellow card | Red card

						F-A	Att	Pos	Away Fans	City scorers and goal times
1	Aug	Sun	7	W	Manchester U (FA Community Shield)	2-3	77,169	–	–	Lescott 38, Dzeko 45
2		Mon	15	**H**	**Swansea City**	4-0	46,802	2	2,785	Dzeko 57, Aguero 68, 90, Silva 71
3		Sun	21	A	Bolton Wanderers	3-2	24,273	1	4,846	Silva 26, Barry 37, Dzeko 47
4		Sun	28	A	Tottenham Hotspur	5-1	36,150	2	1,757	Dzeko 34, 41, 55, 90, Aguero 60
5	Sep	Sat	10	**H**	**Wigan Athletic**	3-0	46,509	2	1,122	Aguero 13, 63, 69
6		Wed	14	**H**	**Napoli** (UEFA Champions League)	1-1	44,026	–	2,533	Kolarov 75
7		Sun	18	A	Fulham	2-2	24,750	2	1,584	Aguero 18, 46
8		Wed	21	**H**	**Birmingham City** (Carling Cup 3)	2-0	25,070	–	494	Hargreaves 17, Balotelli 38
9		Sat	24	**H**	**Everton**	2-0	47,293	2	2,826	Balotelli 68, Milner 89
10		Tue	27	A	Bayern Munich (UEFA Champions League)	0-2	66,000	–	2,905	–
11	Oct	Sat	1	A	Blackburn Rovers	4-0	24,760	2	7,531	Johnson 56, Balotelli 59, Nasri 73, Savic 87
12		Sat	15	**H**	**Aston Villa**	4-1	47,019	1	1,528	Balotelli 28, Johnson 47, Kompany 52, Milner 71
13		Tue	18	**H**	**Villarreal** (UEFA Champions League)	2-1	42,236	–	91	Marchena og 43, Aguero 90+3
14		Sun	23	A	Manchester United	6-1	75,487	1	2,996	Balotelli 22, 60, Aguero 69, Dzeko 90, 90+3, Silva 90+1
15		Wed	26	A	Wolverhampton W (Carling Cup 4)	5-2	12,436	–	2,364	Johnson 37, Nasri 39, Dzeko 40, 64, Scapuzzi 50
16		Sat	29	**H**	**Wolverhampton Wanderers**	3-1	47,142	1	1,597	Dzeko 51, Kolarov 67, Johnson 90
17	Nov	Wed	2	A	Villarreal (UEFA Champions League)	3-0	24,235	–	1,611	Yaya Toure 30, 71, Balotelli pen 45
18		Sat	5	A	Queens Park Rangers	3-2	18,076	1	3,026	Dzeko 43, Silva 52, Yaya Toure 74
19		Sat	19	**H**	**Newcastle United**	3-1	47,408	1	1,685	Balotelli pen 41, Richards 44, Aguero pen 72
20		Tue	22	A	Napoli (UEFA Champions League)	1-2	57,575	–	1,072	Balotelli 33
21		Sun	27	A	Liverpool	1-1	45,071	1	2,964	Kompany 31
22		Tue	29	A	Arsenal (Carling Cup 5)	1-0	60,028	–	5,226	Aguero 83
23	Dec	Sat	3	**H**	**Norwich City**	5-1	47,201	1	2,786	Aguero 32, Nasri 51, Yaya Toure 68, Balotelli 88, A Johnson 90
24		Wed	7	**H**	**Bayern Munich** (UEFA Champions League)	2-0	46,002	–	2,623	Silva 37, Yaya Toure 52
25		Mon	12	A	Chelsea	1-2	41,730	1	1,458	Balotelli 2
26		Sun	18	**H**	**Arsenal**	1-0	47,303	1	2,796	Silva 53
27		Wed	21	**H**	**Stoke City**	3-0	46,321	1	853	Aguero 29, 54, A Johnson 36
28		Mon	26	A	West Bromwich Albion	0-0	25,938	1	2,560	–
29	Jan	Sun	1	A	Sunderland	0-1	40,625	1	2,101	–
30		Tue	3	**H**	**Liverpool**	3-0	47,131	1	2,685	Aguero 10, Yaya Toure 33, Milner pen 75
31		Sun	8	**H**	**Manchester United** (FA Cup 3)	2-3	46,808	–	5,961	Kolarov 48, Aguero 65
32		Wed	11	**H**	**Liverpool** (Carling Cup SF 1st leg)	0-1	36,017	–	5,850	–
33		Mon	16	A	Wigan Athletic	1-0	16,026	1	4,406	Dzeko 22
34		Sun	22	**H**	**Tottenham Hotspur**	3-2	47,422	1	2,804	Nasri 56, Lescott 59, Balotelli pen 90
35		Wed	25	A	Liverpool (Carling Cup SF 2nd leg)	2-2	44,590	–	6,131	De Jong 31, Dzeko 67
36		Tue	31	A	Everton	0-1	29,856	1	2,485	–
37	Feb	Sat	4	**H**	**Fulham**	3-0	46,963	1	741	Aguero pen 10, Baird og 30, Dzeko 72
38		Sun	12	A	Aston Villa	1-0	35,132	1	2,863	Lescott 63
39		Thu	16	A	Porto (Europa League R32 1st Leg)	2-1	47,417	–	1,350	Alvaro Pereira og 55, Aguero 84
40		Wed	22	**H**	**Porto** (Europa League R32 2nd Leg)	4-0	39,538	–	1,171	Aguero 1, Dzeko 76, Silva 84, Pizarro 86
41		Sat	25	**H**	**Blackburn Rovers**	3-0	46,782	1	556	Balotelli 30, Aguero 52, Dzeko 81
	Mar	Sat	3	**H**	**Bolton Wanderers**	3pm				
		Thu	8	A	Sporting Lisbon (Europa League R16 1st Leg)	7pm				
		Sun	11	A	Swansea City	2pm				
		Thu	15	**H**	**Sporting Lisbon** (Europa League R16 2nd Leg)	8.05pm				
		Mon	19*	**H**	**Chelsea**	8pm				
		Sat	24	A	Stoke City	5.30pm				
		Sat	31	**H**	**Sunderland**	3pm				
	Apr	Sun	8	A	Arsenal	4pm				
		Wed	11	**H**	**West Bromwich Albion**	7.45pm				
		Sat	14	A	Norwich City	12.45pm				
		Sun	22	A	Wolverhampton Wanderers	4pm				
		Mon	30	**H**	**Manchester United**	8pm				
	May	Sun	6	A	Newcastle United	2pm				
		Sun	13	**H**	**Queens Park Rangers**	3pm				

* Subject to Chelsea not being in FA Cup

Other possible UEFA Europa League dates:
29 Mar; 5 Apr; 19 Apr; 26 Apr; 9 May (Final in Bucharest)

	Joe HART	Micah RICHARDS	Joleon LESCOTT	Vincent KOMPANY	Aleksandar KOLAROV	Nigel DE JONG	Yaya TOURE	James MILNER	David SILVA	Edin DZEKO	Mario BALOTELLI	Gareth BARRY	Adam JOHNSON	Gael CLICHY	Stuart TAYLOR	Stefan SAVIC	Shaun WRIGHT-PHILLIPS	Sergio AGUERO	Pablo ZABALETA	Carlos TEVEZ	Costel PANTILIMON	Samir NASRI	Abdul RAZAK	Kolo TOURE	Nedum ONUOHA	Wayne BRIDGE	Owen HARGREAVES	Karim REKIK	Luca SCAPUZZI	Denis SUAREZ	David PIZARRO
1			1		X			X		1	X	Sub MB59	Sub JM67	Debut AK73	Unused Sub	Unused Sub	Unused Sub	Unused Sub													
2					Unused Sub	X		Sub DS82	1 X	1	Unused Sub		X		Unused Sub	Debut AJ74		Debut ND59 2	Unused Sub													
3									1 X	1 X	Unused Sub	1	Sub ED80	Unused Sub		Unused Sub		X	Sub DS88	Sub SA68	Unused Sub										
4		Sub PZ64						Unused Sub		4	Unused Sub		Unused Sub			Sub SA75		1 X	X	Unused Sub	Unused Sub	Debut									
5							X			Unused Sub	Sub SA70							3 X	Unused Sub	X	Unused Sub	Sub CT60	Sub YT80	Unused Sub							
6		Unused Sub			1 X					X			Sub SN75	Sub AK75		Unused Sub				Sub ED81	Unused Sub	X		Unused Sub							
7					Unused Sub				X		Unused Sub		Sub SN81					2 X	Sub DS69	Sub SA82	Unused Sub	X		Unused Sub							
8								Sub OH57			1			Unused Sub	Unused Sub			Unused Sub			Debut		X			X	Debut 1 X	Debut WB78	Debut AR86	Unused Sub	
9					Unused Sub			Sub SA78 1		X	Sub ED60 1					Sub SN83		X	Unused Sub	Unused Sub	Unused Sub	X									
10			Unused Sub		Sub GB73	Sub ED55		Sub SN69		X		X							Unused Sub	Unused Sub	Unused Sub	X									
11						Unused Sub				Sub MB88	1 X	Unused Sub	1 X	Unused Sub		Sub AJ79 1		X			Unused Sub	Sub SA27 1									
12		X		1	Unused Sub		X	1	Sub YT66	Unused Sub	1		1 X								Unused Sub	Unused Sub		Sub MR66			Sub AJ77				
13		Unused Sub				X		Sub SN81				Sub AJ40	X	Unused Sub		Unused Sub		Sub NDJ62 1			Unused Sub	X									
14					Sub JM89	Unused Sub		X	1	Sub MB70 2	2 X							1 X	Unused Sub		Unused Sub	Sub SA75		Unused Sub							
15								Sub AR85		2	Unused Sub		1		Unused Sub							1 X	X		Unused Sub	Unused Sub		Sub LS73	1 X	Debut SN67	
16					1	Unused Sub		Unused Sub		1 X	Sub SN71		Sub ED63 1			Sub SA76		X	Unused Sub		Unused Sub	X									
17			Unused Sub		Sub MB82		2 X		X	Unused Sub	1 X	Unused Sub	Sub DS65					Sub YT74			Unused Sub										
18							1		1	1 X	Sub GB75	X	Sub SA68	Unused Sub				X	Unused Sub		Unused Sub	Unused Sub		Sub ED88							
19		1			Unused Sub		X		Sub MB69	Unused Sub	1 X	Sub YT84	Sub SA75					1 X			Unused Sub			Unused Sub							
20						X					1 X	Unused Sub	Sub PZ85	Unused Sub		Unused Sub		Sub ED81	X		Unused Sub	Sub NDJ70									
21				1		Unused Sub			X	Sub SA83	Sub SN65		Unused Sub					X	Unused Sub		Unused Sub	X		Sub DS90							
22		Unused Sub													Unused Sub			Sub AK32 1					Sub OH79				Unused Sub		Unused Sub		Unused Sub
23			Unused Sub			Sub ED82	1	Unused Sub		X	Sub SA72 1		Sub SN69 1			Unused Sub		1 X			Unused Sub	1 X									
24						Sub ED77	1 X	Unused Sub	1 X	X	Sub YT81		Sub DS84						Unused Sub		Unused Sub			Unused Sub							
25			X			Sub DS75			X	Sub JL85	1		Unused Sub			Unused Sub		X			Unused Sub	Unused Sub		Sub SA64							
26			Unused Sub			Sub YT85	X	Sub MB72	1	Sub SN85	X		Unused Sub			Unused Sub					Unused Sub	X									
27		X				Unused Sub		Sub GB83	X		Sub DS68	X	1			Sub MR59		2	Unused Sub		Unused Sub			Unused Sub							
28			Unused Sub			Unused Sub		X		Sub JM82		Sub SN59	Sub SA74			Unused Sub		X			Unused Sub	X									
29		Sub AK67			X	X		Unused Sub	Sub SN55					Unused Sub		Unused Sub		Sub NDJ45			Unused Sub	X									
30			Sub DS76		Unused Sub	Unused Sub	1	1	X				Sub SA71			Unused Sub		1 X	Unused Sub		Unused Sub										
31	Unused Sub				1				X				X	Unused Sub		Sub DS45		1	Sub AJ45			X	Unused Sub				Sub SN82			Unused Sub	
32					Sub SA72					Sub AJ66	X		X					X	Unused Sub		Unused Sub	Sub MB39		Unused Sub		Unused Sub					
33					Unused Sub	Sub SN74			X	1			Sub SA90					X			Unused Sub	X		Sub DS81		Unused Sub	Unused Sub				
34			1		Unused Sub	Unused Sub				X	Sub ED65 1		Unused Sub						Unused Sub		Unused Sub	1		Unused Sub							
35						1 X		Unused Sub		1			Sub NDJ78	Unused Sub	X			Sub SS45			Unused Sub					Unused Sub	Unused Sub					
36			X		Sub JL68	Sub GB86		X				X	Sub JM62		Unused Sub				Unused Sub		Unused Sub		Unused Sub								
37						Sub SA80		Sub SN54		1			X	Unused Sub				1 X	Unused Sub		Unused Sub	X						Unused Sub		Debut AJ90	
38		Sub DS90	1						X	Sub SA89			X	Unused Sub		Unused Sub		X			Unused Sub	Sub AJ84								Unused Sub	
39					Sub DS82				X	Unused Sub	X					Unused Sub		Sub MB78 1	Sub SN88		Unused Sub	X								Unused Sub	
40								Sub GB58	1	Sub SN69 1	Unused Sub	X				Unused Sub		1 X	Unused Sub		Unused Sub	X								Sub SA80 1	
41		Unused Sub					X	Sub YT86		Sub MB79 1	1 X		X	Unused Sub				1			Unused Sub	Unused Sub								Sub AJ71	



BARCLAYS PREMIER LEAGUE

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Teamsheet

Manchester City

Played		Goals	🟨	🟥
2	Micah Richards			
4	Vincent Kompany			
5	Pablo Zabaleta			
6	Joleon Lescott			
7	James Milner			
8	David Pizarro			
10	Edin Dzeko			
11	Adam Johnson			
12	Stuart Taylor			
13	Aleksandar Kolarov			
15	Stefan Savic			
16	Sergio Aguero			
18	Gareth Barry			
19	Samir Nasri			
20	Owen Hargreaves			
21	David Silva			
22	Gael Clichy			
23	*Retired in remembrance of Marc-Vivien Foe*			
25	Joe Hart			
28	Kolo Toure			
30	Costel Pantilimon			
32	Carlos Tevez			
34	Nigel De Jong			
36	Denis Suarez			
37	Gunnar Nielsen			
42	Yaya Toure			
44	Karim Rekik			
45	Mario Balotelli			
54	Tom Smith			
55	Sean Tse			
57	Reece Wabara			
58	Ahmed Benali			
61	Jeremy Helan			
63	Eirik Johansen			
64	Joan Roman			
65	Bradley Robinson			

Bolton Wanderers

Played		Goals	🟨	🟥
1	Adam Bogdan			
2	Gretar Rafn Steinsson			
3	Marcos Alonso			
4	Paul Robinson			
6	Fabrice Muamba			
7	Chris Eagles			
8	Stuart Holden			
9	Tuncay Sanli			
10	Martin Petrov			
11	Ricardo Gardner			
12	Zat Knight			
14	Kevin Davies			
15	Tyrone Mears			
16	Mark Davies			
17	Ivan Klasnic			
18	Samuel Ricketts			
19	Nigel Reo-Coker			
20	Robbie Blake			
21	Darren Pratley			
22	Jussi Jaaskelainen			
24	David Ngog			
25	Dedryck Boyata			
26	Rob Lainton			
27	Chung-Yong Lee			
28	Gael Kakuta			
29	Marvin Sordell			
30	Ryo Miyaichi			
31	David Wheater			
32	Tim Ream			
36	Michael O'Halloran			
37	Joshua Vela			
39	Joe Riley			
43	Jay Lynch			

Mascots



Shayne Lewis

Age: 6
Favourite: Mario Balotelli
Likes: Playing football and watching City



Ella Gibbons
(Bolton)

Age: 11
Favourites: Stuart Holden and Chung-Yong Lee
Likes: Watching Bolton, swimming, reading, cycling, Guides and playing with friends

Player Escorts



Holly Worsley

Age: 7 (8 on Monday!)
Favourites: Vincent Kompany, Joe Hart, Mario Balotelli and Sergio Aguero
Likes: Watching City on TV, Brownies, swimming and dancing



Miles Chadwick

Age: 6
Favourite: Vincent Kompany, Sergio Aguero and Mario Balotelli
Likes: Playing football for Penine Juniors Kindergarten

Match Officials

Referee: Mark Clattenburg

After taking the semi-final at the World Under-20 Championship in Colombia in August, the Tyneside-based official had a number of appointments on the European circuit and last weekend he was in the middle at Wembley for the Carling Cup final.

Assistants: 🟨 Simon Beck 🟥 Stephen Child

Fourth Official: Neil Swarbrick

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